

Distribution of wheat seed to cultivators—Fyzabad district

Report on the
Administration
of the United Provinces
of Agra and Oudh

1924-1925



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Report on the Administration
OF THE
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh
IN
1924-25.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

This report deals chiefly with the financial year from April, 1924 to March, 1925. It is divided into two parts. Part I contains the General Summary which seeks to present the outstanding features of the year in a narrative form and also with the aid of such informations as is available to bring the record down to the end of December, 1925. Part II deals with each subject in detail, and is based on departmental reports which cover the calendar year, the financial year, the agricultural year or the land revenue year according to the nature of the subjects and work which they review.

A census is held every tenth year. Hence the annual provincial administration report in every tenth year reviews the history of the province in general and of modern developments and activities in particular. The latest report containing information of this kind is that for 1921-22.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

1. The province has enjoyed a series of good monsoons, and steady progress has been made towards the restoration of both economic and political stability. Public health was good, though it did not attain the high level of 1923, which in many ways was an unusually healthy year.

Progress would have been faster had it not been for the growth of communal bitterness, which still remains a serious obstacle in the path of orderly advance. Another retarding factor was the unparalleled floods of September, 1924. A short account of the calamity was given in last year's report. Fuller information is now available of the severe damage caused and of the extensive measures adopted to alleviate distress. The loss of life reported was 1,102. This, though large in itself, is a small total when it is remembered that the population in the areas affected by the floods is nearly two and a half millions, and that no less than 45,000 people were actively succoured in the rescue operations undertaken. Roads and bridges suffered severely, particularly in Kumaun where 106 bridges in the hills were swept away, and where also the headworks of the submontane canals at Ramnagar and Kathgodam were destroyed. The damage to communications as a whole is estimated at Rs. 18½ lakhs. The financial burden imposed on the provinces was summed up by the Hon'ble Finance Member on February 28, 1925 in presenting the budget for 1925-26—"The total loss of revenue directly caused by the floods is Rs. 20 lakhs; but to this must be added a further loss of Rs. 15 lakhs due to the rains which produced the floods. The cost of restoring our damaged canal works, our roads, bridges and buildings and of assisting district boards to restore similar damages will be some Rs. 59 lakhs. The cost of relief falling on the Famine Insurance Fund, whether by direct grants or by *tagavi* advances, will be nearly Rs. 33 lakhs. The total burden imposed on the province is thus about Rs. 127 lakhs of which some Rs. 75 lakhs fall on the current year and some Rs. 52 lakhs on the next year. And since out of this sum probably some Rs. 33 lakhs at most—*tagavi* and suspended revenue—is recoverable, the final and irretrievable loss is Rs. 94 lakhs."

Official help in relieving the distress of the sufferers was prompt and generous. It was made clear from the outset that no expenditure would be grudged. Altogether Rs. 6.39 lakhs were allotted for direct irrecoverable relief, district officers being given the widest discretion in its use and distribution. In addition Rs. 26.66 lakhs were allotted for grants of *tagavi* to replace lost seed and cattle. As a special concession to the needs of the time the whole of this large sum was advanced

free of interest. Revenue to the extent of Rs. 2.01 lakhs was suspended and of Rs. 4.42 lakhs remitted.

The non-official public also came to the rescue and gave freely not only in money but in organizing efficient relief operations. By March, 1925 Rs. 3.08 lakhs had been collected in cash. No less than Rs. 40,000 were given by Indian States outside the province. The Court of Wards also contributed about Rs. 40,000. The calamity was of an unprecedented magnitude, but the province can claim to have met it with exceptional promptness and generosity.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS.

2. Political conditions in 1925 did not differ in any marked degree from those of the previous year. The extremists lost further ground, and their leaders met with little success in their appeals for funds. Public meetings were held in many places on the release of Mr. Gandhi and the death of Mr. C. R. Das, but there was little spontaneous enthusiasm. On the other hand, the schism between the no-changers and the swarajists widened. Events outside India made the Khilafat a spent force. The Khilafat national university left the province, being removed from Aligarh to Delhi.

Revolutionary propaganda, however, is still alive. Investigations into the Kakori train dacoity have revealed the existence of an active and dangerous revolutionary movement. Occasional attempts were made (especially in the Fyzabad and Bijnor districts) to revive the Kisan Sabhas, but met with little success. The engineering staff of the B. and N.-W. Railway went on strike, mainly as a result of the exertions of certain agitators. Cawnpore was the centre of some communist activity.

The liberals as a political party can hardly be said to have recovered from their defeat at the polls in 1923. The landholders as the result of their continued numerical strength in the Legislative Council possess as a single party more weight than all the others when they act together.

The outstanding feature of the situation was the diversion of energy from politics to communal controversy. The pact between the two major communities was short-lived, and all pretence at unity has now been abandoned. Relations have

grown steadily worse and were bad throughout the year. Except at Aligarh no serious communal riot occurred, but this was due rather to timely precautions by the local authorities than to any mutual forbearance between the major communities. The task of maintaining peace during religious festivals, especially during the *Id* and the *Daschra*, imposed a heavy strain on the resources of every district. The same spirit pervaded local politics and seriously hampered the work of municipal and district boards.

These dissensions are the more unfortunate because in other respects the province has enjoyed considerable prosperity during the last few years: but neither economic prosperity nor the political opportunities offered by the reforms can secure a marked advance so long as disunion is rife.

PRESS.

3. From the Government point of view 1924 witnessed a marked improvement in the tone and language of the Press and the improvement was maintained in 1925. This was partly due to the fact that communal took the place of political controversy. Even in communal matters it was not unusual at first to lay all the blame at the door of the Government, but this concession to nationalist prejudices was soon abandoned. The growth of the communal spirit was reflected in the increasingly bitter tone of the more extreme papers and was further exemplified by the reception given to the articles written by Lala Har Dayal from Sweden. These articles advocated the establishment of a Hindu raj by the conversion of all non-Hindus, and at first attracted little attention; but as tension increased they came to be regarded as inspired; and even Hindu papers which did not entirely accept the author's extreme views expressed the opinion that until the Hindus organized themselves no real Hindu-Muslim unity was possible. These precepts were put into practice by progressive leaders in the Hindu Mahasabha who recognized as essential preliminaries to the union of Hinduism the removal of untouchability and the elevation of the depressed classes. The Muslims took alarm and replied to the *Shuddhi* and *Sangathan* movements by the *Tabligh* and *Tanzim*. The Press gave circulation to the wildest rumours as to the methods by

which Muslims secured converts, and while the more respectable papers held themselves aloof from communal controversy, their numbers were few, and a large part of the vernacular press showed no restraint either in condemning the practices of the other party or in inflaming the fanaticism of their own.

In political matters non-co-operation was seldom advocated. The Press was as little unanimous as the Swaraj Party itself in deciding what was to take its place; some favoured responsive co-operation and others the adoption of obstructive tactics. Opinion, however, was at least unanimous in demanding a further advance of the reforms, and the majority report of the Reforms Enquiry Committee was generally condemned. The Liberal papers, of which the *Leader* is the most prominent, supported the minority report, but the extremist organs rejected even that. Liberal papers also welcomed Dr. Annie Besant's Commonwealth of India Bill, but apart from them it aroused little enthusiasm.

The Civil Services Bill was strongly condemned and the demand for complete Indianisation and the cessation of British recruitment increased in vigour. The Sken Committee itself aroused little enthusiasm, but it formed the text for a renewed advocacy of Indianising the army; the Eight Unit Scheme was considered to be too grudging an acceptance of the principle involved and met with little favour.

Other features of domestic policy which evoked discussion were the removal of the cotton excise duty and Mr. Tambe's acceptance of office in the Central Provinces. The former was welcomed with a chorus of approval; on the latter opinions varied widely. General sympathy was expressed for the accused in the Kakori train dacoity case, the crime itself receiving singularly little condemnation. No paper has yet suggested that the Government engineered the dacoity, but it was freely alleged that they used it deliberately to discredit the Congress Party and hamper preparations for the Congress meeting to be held at Cawnpore in December, 1925. Equal suspicion attached to the Viceroy's pronouncement on the importance of agricultural development. It was generally interpreted as an effort to divert public attention from politics.

In foreign politics the Mosul award was severely criticised and the League of Nations was accused of being merely an instrument devised by European powers to forward their

imperialistic designs. Muslim papers in particular blamed it for not stopping the Moroccan war; and the Riffs were suggestively held up as an example of gallantry and local patriotism which India might well take to heart. Much the same moral was extracted from the disturbances in China.

The position of Indians overseas was constantly discussed, and the Anti-Asiatic legislation in South Africa naturally provoked bitter comments.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

4. By the end of 1924 the second Reformed Council, which first met in January of that year, was well home in the saddle. The composition of the Council and its work in the first year were described in last year's report. In 1925 the Council developed along normal lines. The Swarajists who were the most compact, though numerically not the strongest party, were accepted as forming the opposition. Their cohesion was superior to that of every other party, and their discipline and regular attendance combined with some improvement in debating skill made them a force to be reckoned with. Other parties were much more loosely organized. Liberals under that name had mostly disappeared. Some now called themselves Progressives; others Independents. The landholders were in the majority and provided the Council with its most stable elements, but even now they cannot be said to be fully organized as a political party in the usual acceptance of the term. The result was that the Swarajists often held the balance in questions of controversy. But deliberate obstruction made no appeal to the majority of the Council, and with occasional exceptions the Swarajists appreciated this fact and confined their activities to legitimate criticism and argument.

The Council was jealous of the dignity of the House. It urged the recognition of special privileges for itself on the lines of those enjoyed by the House of Commons and other Legislatures outside India and adopted a resolution recommending the appointment of a standing committee of privileges. A newspaper criticism of the President's ruling on a certain occasion was greatly resented as constituting a breach of privilege. A resolution was carried empowering members

of the Council to inspect Government institutions in their constituencies.

The Council's work in 1925 covered a wide field. There was no relaxation of vigilance on public expenditure, and during the budget debate every demand was closely scrutinized. The Council still insists on the scrutiny of the minutest details of the administration, and much time was spent on matters of purely parochial importance. On questions of more general interest it recommended an inquiry into the prevalence of corruption among public servants and into the best methods of suppressing it, and asked for another inquiry into possible remedies for unemployment among the educated classes. It has constantly urged the liberalization of the arms rules. At the instance of the landholders a resolution was carried recommending the appointment of a committee to consider the improvement of Court of Wards administration. The landholders, as was natural, showed a keen interest in all questions of land revenue policy and tenancy law. The Swarajists similarly lost no opportunity of endeavouring to improve Jail administration. All sections devoted much attention to educational reform and the encouragement of temperance. Among other legislative measures may be mentioned the Oudh Courts Act, constituting a Chief Court for Oudh, and the United Provinces Opium Smoking Act.

The term of office of the Hon'ble Mr. M. Keane, C.I.E., I.C.S., the first official President of the Council, expired in August 1925, and the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Sita Ram was elected as the first non-official President. The retiring President received warm tributes from all sections of the House in recognition of the dignity and impartiality with which he had guided the activities of the Council and for having laid the foundations of sound parliamentary traditions.

CRIME AND POLICE ADMINISTRATION.

5. Political and economic conditions continued to improve during 1924 and 1925, so that in spite of the heavy losses caused by the unprecedented floods of September, 1924 no rise of crime followed them. In fact, the volume of crime in 1924 was the lowest of the last ten years. But communal

Crime of
1924-25.

tension increased, resulting in disturbances in eleven districts in 1924—those at Allahabad, Lucknow and Shahjahanpūr being particularly serious. The tension did not abate appreciably in 1925, but in that year the strenuous exertions of the magistracy and the police prevented any serious disturbance except in Aligarh. Politics generally gave little trouble, but one important case known as the Kakori train dacoity case revealed for the first time of late years the existence of underground revolutionary activity.

The outstanding feature of the period was the success won by the police in combating dacoity. Only nine districts reported an increase in 1925; while the valuable work done by the special dacoity force and the local police in 1924 and the early months of 1925 resulted in an almost complete disappearance of the crime in the Bareilly-Budaun area and in a conspicuous decrease in districts where dacoity was a continuing menace in the previous years.

Conditions in Rae Bareilly steadily improved—a decrease of 50 per cent. being reported in 1925. The trial of two important dacoit gang cases was finished in November, 1925. In the Kumaun Bhandu gang case, which lasted over seven months, 120 persons were sentenced to imprisonment for life. The other case concerned a gang consisting mostly of Aheriyas which had been operating since 1919 in the Aligarh, Agra, Etah and Muttra districts. In this 28 men were convicted, eight being sentenced to transportation for life and the rest getting long terms of imprisonment. Important gang cases were also under trial in the Saharanpur and Mainpuri districts at the end of 1925. Lesser gangs are being broken up on all sides. The chief problem which now confronts the police is the breaking up of the Dhampur Kanjar organization which still threatens the peace of Agra and other districts in the west. Trouble is also apprehended in Bundelkhand from two gangs led by escaped convicts.

Robbery cases, which showed a slight rise of 15 in 1924, decreased during 1925, though exact figures for the latter year are not yet available. The number of murders fell from 722 to 688 in 1924, murders by dacoits declining from 112 to 78. Murder figures for 1925, which show a further reduction of 9 per cent., include the cases of three chāukidars who were murdered while on duty. Cases both

of burglary and theft decreased, but the convictions obtained were low. Burglary investigation is expected to improve by the introduction of a new method of classification, which should enable investigating officers to acquire an intimate knowledge of the ways and habits of local bad characters. It is also hoped that the relief afforded to the police by panchayats, who have been empowered to investigate petty crime, will enable investigating officers to give greater attention to the more important classes of crime.

Cattle theft is a serious problem in the western districts (chiefly those adjoining the Punjab), where the nature of the country and the inter-provincial organization of the crime helps the cattle thief. The Punjab police have recently agreed to join this province in taking concerted action and a special police force has now been established on each side of the border.

6. Complaint is general that the reductions in the number of village chaukidars and circle inspectors have gone too far. The unsatisfactory condition of police buildings has long been notorious, the needs of the police having far outstripped the allotments for building and repairs which could be made from revenue. The only remedy was a loan, and a loan of a crore of rupees has now been taken to finance a comprehensive scheme which will take seven years to complete.

Police
Adminis-
tration.

The police training school at Moradabad has been reorganized and its usefulness has been increased in many ways, not the least of which is the extension of the course to seventeen months instead of a year. An important scheme for reorganizing the railway police is being considered. The problems which confront this force differ from those met with in ordinary district work; crime is frequently extra-provincial and consequently investigation is difficult and complicated. But the reorganization will have to wait till financial conditions improve.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

7. In spite of the comparative tranquillity of the province Agra showed a slight rise in the total volume of offences, but the increase was confined mainly to the less serious forms

Criminal
Justice.

of crime. In Oudh, however, the position was reversed, serious crime rose, though the total volume of crime decreased. It was in Oudh that the Kisan Sabhas chiefly flourished: and though these and similar organizations created by revolutionary propaganda have for the most part died out, the spirit of lawlessness which they engendered still persists.

The courts were very busy and had on several occasions to be relieved by the appointment of additional courts for special cases. Important cases which were instituted during the year, include some heavy gang cases in Kumaun and Aligarh, some railway cases revealing an extensive system of misappropriation of stores, and some which dealt with a series of frauds on the Imperial Bank of India. The length and complexity of these cases were mainly responsible for the remarkable average of 58 days for the duration of trials in Oudh. In Agra, the average remained at ten. Subordinate courts might do much to save themselves and the public by dealing more summarily with unimportant complaints and by taking more frequent action in punishing those who bring obviously false complaints. The practice of summoning unnecessary witnesses who in the end are not even examined is still far too common. But these criticisms are not new, and are more the result than the cause of the severe pressure of work.

Much relief was as usual afforded by honorary magistrates, who disposed of about half of the total number of cases. *Panchayats* also deal with some classes of minor offences and more use is being made of them to relieve the regular courts.

Civil
Justice.

8. There was an increase in the volume of civil litigation, but the increase in the judicial cadre enabled the court to meet the extra pressure. The increase is particularly marked in the number of suits of small value.

The number of cases disposed of during the year rose from 69,408 to 70,075 in Oudh, while in Agra disposals exceeded the previous year's figures by 12,963. The duration of contested suits averaged 107 days in Agra and 92 days in Oudh as against 115 and 90 days, respectively, in the previous year. It is hoped that by carrying out the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee a reduction in these figures may be effected.

9. Since the close of the year an important change has been made in the judicial system in Oudh. The old Judicial Commissioner's Court has been abolished and replaced by a Chief Court of five judges. The new court was formally opened by the Governor of the United Provinces on November 2, 1925.

Oudh Chief
Court.

AGRARIAN PROBLEMS.

10 The attempt to reach a solution of current agrarian problems progressed a stage further, and Bills to amend the Agra Tenancy Act and the Land Revenue Act were introduced in the Legislative Council in December, 1925. They offer to landlords more liberal terms of settlement, greater facilities for enhancement and recovery of arrears of rent and a wide extension of *sir* rights. On the non-occupancy tenant they confer life tenancy and limit rent enhancement generally. The intention is to refer the Bills to Select Committees in March, 1926 and to pass them into law in the autumn session of that year. Landlords are in a majority in the Council: they recognize that they have gained something and given something, and in general their attitude encourages the hope that the Bills will pass into law without radical change.

Some experience has now been gained of the working of the Oudh Rent Act in the form in which it emerged in the Amending Act of 1921. It has, on the whole, worked well, though some sections have created difficulties. Two provisions have caused some discontent. One of these debars a tenant who acquires proprietary rights in a mahal, however small his share, from the benefit of the rights conferred on statutory tenants in respect of any land he may hold in that mahal. The other renders a tenant liable to ejectment from his entire holding if he sublets the smallest fraction of it. For the present, however, no changes are proposed in these sections, but a fresh Amending Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council in December, 1925, at the same time as the Bills mentioned above. Its most important clause limits rent enhancement at any one time to one-third of the existing rent. This change follows on the clause of the Bill to amend the Revenue Act, which applies both to Agra and to Oudh, whereby revenue enhancement is limited to one-third of the

expiring demand in any mahal. The Bill also contains a provision allowing relinquishment by a tenant of a part of his holding to which access is impeded by any part of the Sarda Canal system now under construction. The Bill makes some further minor but necessary changes in the roster year system. It is hoped to refer this Bill to a Select Committee and to pass it into law with the other Bills mentioned above.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

Rainfall
and its
effects
on harvests.

11. General agricultural conditions during the three years 1922—1924 were reviewed in last year's report. Conditions in 1925 did not differ in any marked degree from those of the preceding years. Rainfall was abundant. But unlike the preceding years the rains broke in good time. In fact the monsoon had definitely established itself and given good rain over almost the whole province by the second half of June. Nor did the months of September and October suffer from the excessive rain which characterised 1923 and 1924 and resulted in floods and widespread suffering. The floods resulting from heavy rain in July, 1925 were not so widespread or disastrous, though they caused local damage. For example the entire *kharif* crop was lost in 219 villages in the Hardoi district.

The heavy rain of September, 1924 benefited the spring crops of 1925 except in the heavily flooded areas, the average outturn, except in those areas, being estimated at 14 annas in the rupee. The opium crop was especially good and it was followed a few months later by a satisfactory sugarcane crop. The *kharif* crop, on the other hand, was not very satisfactory, as the heavy rains of July hampered weeding and sowing operations. As in the years immediately preceding, 1925 had a good *rabi* and an indifferent *kharif*.

Prices.

12. Towards the end of 1924 prices were affected by the floods and rose above the level of the last year or two, and in February and March, 1925 they appreciated still further, partly because of the damage done to crops by frost and the failure of the winter rains and partly in conformity with world prices. But they fell again in April when the *rabi* came into the market and maintained a low level until September when, owing to the generally deficient rainfall of

the month, they again showed an upward tendency. The rise continued till the end of the year. Generally speaking, prices were higher in 1925 than in 1924 as the following comparative statement (in seers to the rupee) shows:—

		Wheat.	Barley.	Gram.	Rice.
July, 1924	...	7.94	12.87	12.51	5.44
December, 1924	...	7.84	11.06	11.90	5.82
July, 1925	...	6.97	10.45	10.72	5.18
December, 1925	...	5.81	9.02	8.19	5.55

13. The high level of prices favoured the cultivator, and combined with the extensive relief measures undertaken after the floods of September, 1924 enabled him to recover rapidly. Two test-works opened in the worst areas of Rohilkhand did not fill. The year was free from widespread disaster such as marked 1923 and 1924, and such calamities as did occur, such as a severe hurricane in the Meerut division in April, had only a local effect. The health of the rural population was good. The province has now had a series of good monsoons, and in spite of the damage caused by floods, its economic condition stands high. The rapid recovery from the effects of the floods not only bears witness to this, but also constitutes a happy augury for the future.

Condition
of the
agricultural
classes.

IRRIGATION.

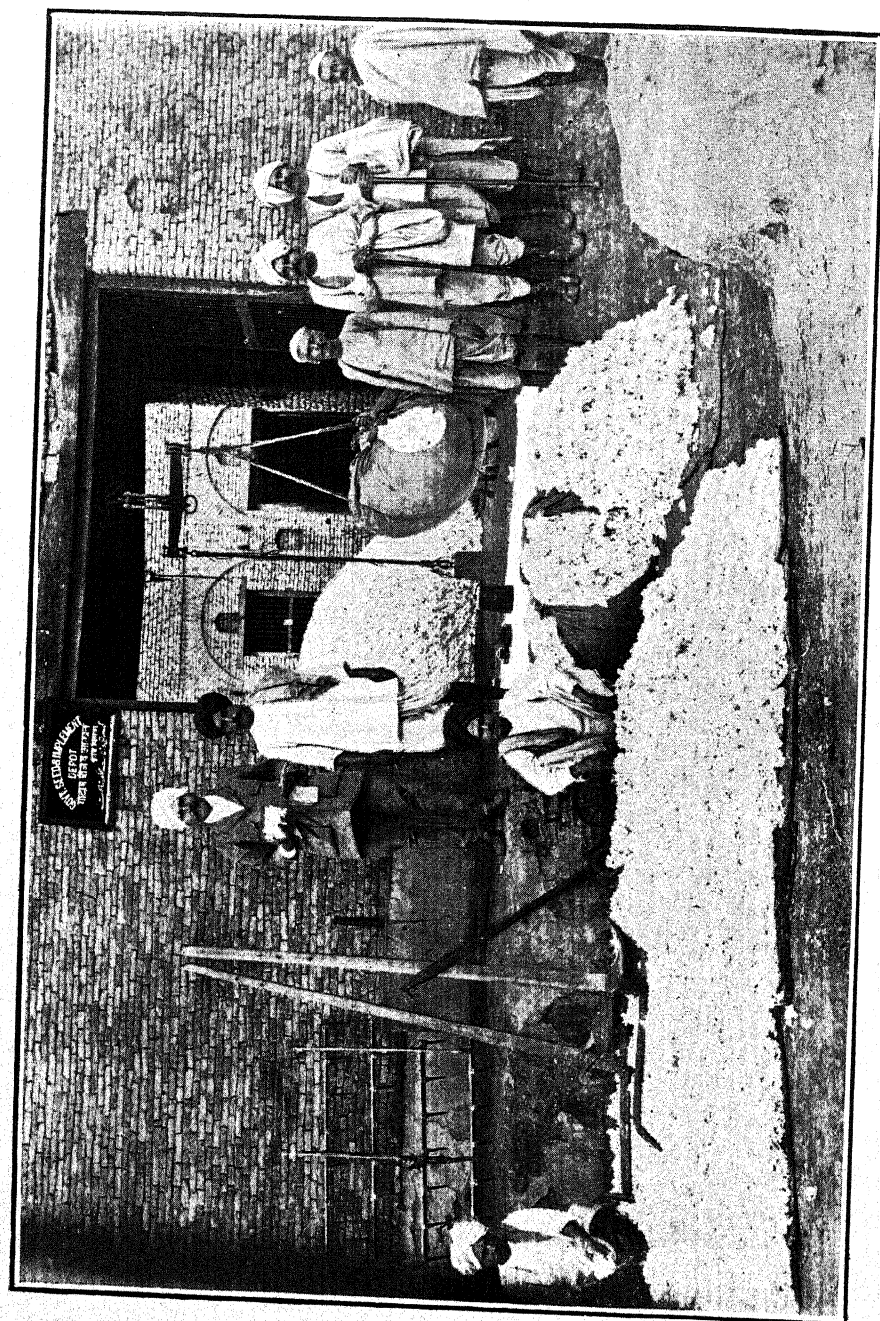
14. The progress of the monsoon has been already described, but no account of irrigation would be complete without a further reference to it. A weak monsoon naturally increases the demand for artificial irrigation, while diminishing the supply of water not only in the rivers which feed the canals, but also in the tanks and wells on which a large part of the province depends. A too plentiful monsoon brings other troubles with it. 1924-25 illustrates both phases. The winter rains were feeble and the demand for water outstripped the supply. As it was, the irrigated area rose by 6.5 per cent., and of this the area supplied by canals showed the greatest increase, viz., 16.2 per cent., but not nearly all the demand could be met and crops such as sugarcane, which require an excessive share of the water available, were partially starved.

The monsoon effected a radical change in the position. Water was now not only sufficient but too plentiful, and the

ensuing floods at the end of September were within an ace of causing almost as much distress and want as many a complete failure of the monsoon has done. This may sound exaggerated; but apart from the destruction of crops and cattle, the loss of life and the loss of property, the damage done to the canal system threatened the entire cessation of the upper Ganges supply and at least a partial cessation of the supply of the Jumna and some of the minor canals. Had this eventuated, the loss in canal revenue would have been enormous, but this would have been little compared to the loss of crops. Happily, the damage was averted. The Dhanauri dam, on which the Ganges Canal depends, was temporarily strengthened from day to day till the danger of collapse, at one time so imminent, was over. The head-works of other canals, though seriously damaged, were not entirely put out of action, and in the end the canals were able to perform their proper functions when the demand for water again arose. The demand naturally came late, and owing to the moisture left in the soil was not as large as it might have been. Still the irrigated portion of the *rabi* rose from 45 to 55 per cent., and the way in which the canals were repaired in time to meet the demands upon them reflects the greatest credit on the department. More than Rs. 11 lakhs were spent in repairs before March, 1925, and in all over Rs. 26 lakhs will be spent.

The total area irrigated by canals fell to 1,900,000 acres, but the value of the produce of this area rose by Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 16½ crores owing to the increase in the price of food grains. The gross revenue fell by nearly Rs. 35 lakhs, but much of this fall really belongs to the previous *rabi*, the rates for which are normally collected at the beginning of the year. Working expenses were reduced by Rs. 2½ lakhs. The return on the capital outlay is small: in the case of productive works it is only 1.04 per cent., while unproductive works show a loss of 4.45 per cent. But the latter, which consist mainly of the canal system and tanks of Bundelkhand, are in the nature of famine insurance and cannot be judged by ordinary commercial standards.

Construction work, apart from the heavy repairs necessitated by the floods, was mainly confined to the Sarda Canal and the Sarda-Kichha Feeder Canal. On these over



A-19 Cotton purchased for seed—Aligarh district.

Rs. 105 lakhs were spent. Two new temporary divisions were created for the work, as well as a third circle for superintendence.

Other forms of irrigation call for little notice, important though they are. Half the irrigated area of the province is supplied from wells, and many districts rely on them entirely. Six thousand three hundred and sixty new wells were built during the year, most of them in the eastern districts.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

15. Recent political developments have emphasized the importance of the Agricultural department which incidentally has established itself as one of the most popular branches of the administration. The prejudice with which the conservative cultivator at first regarded its activities has been overcome by the only argument which he could appreciate, i.e., results. Judged from this standpoint the department has had another successful year, and as every increase in popularity affords new scope for fresh activity, its expansion in all branches has been marked. Fewer tube wells were constructed, but the demand for them shows no slackening and 54 were under construction in September, 1925. Important research work was directed to the production of improved varieties of seed and to combating the various forms of crop disease. Cattle-breeding operations were extended in new directions, and that branch of the department which devotes itself to giving advice and instruction both to zamindars and tenants was more actively employed than ever.

16. The department maintains its farms for many purposes—instruction, research, experiment and demonstration. Those at Cawnpore and Bulandshahr are used by the staff as instructional, that at Raya (Muttra) for research on cotton seed. A new farm for potato research has been opened at Fatehgarh, and a cold storage plant was installed there by the Plant Pathologist for the investigation of the wastage caused by rotting. Profits are not the first essential of such farms, but it is worthy of remark that a total loss in 1923 of Rs. 40,853 on all farms was converted in 1925 into a profit of Rs. 13,200. The Raya farm alone earned more than Rs. 10,000. Two important varieties of cotton, known as Aligarh 19 and C 402, have been produced which are popular both with growers and

Improvement
of field
produce.

spinners. Important work has been done on isolating types of oil-seeds yielding a high percentage of oil and possessing good powers of resistance to rust.

The seed and demonstration farms have continued their work of producing improved seed adapted to local conditions. Sugarcane research has made excellent progress at Shahjahanpur and Gorakhpur. It has been discovered that the cultivation of sugarcane requires less water in Rohilkhand than in other parts of the province, and this fact, if realized by cultivators, should enable the benefits of the Sarda Canal supply to be more widely distributed. Work on sugarcane has been so encouraging that it has been decided to complete the equipment of the Shahjahanpur research station for the study of the nitrogen content, moisture and aeration of soil. It is hoped that this will be of great help in the intensive cultivation of improved varieties of sugarcane.

Demonstration and seed farms which worked at a loss of Rs. 17,004 in 1923, showed a profit of Rs. 33,090 in 1925; and this remarkable success resulted in an increase of the number of private farms managed with the assistance of the department from 405 to 504. This province has given a lead to all India in the production and distribution of improved varieties of seed. Ten seed stores were opened in the previous year. Three others are under construction and proposals have been made for six more.

**Cattle-
breeding.**

17. There are two cattle-breeding farms in the districts of Muttra and Kheri for the supply of selected bulls. But the demand greatly exceeds the supply. Hence three "controlled breeding areas" were formed, consisting of groups of villages which possess good cows. Inferior local bulls are, as far as possible, eliminated and the breeding operations are placed under the supervision of cattle inspectors who keep accurate records. Subject to the vote of the Legislative Council, the area of the Muttra farm which specialises in Hisar cattle will be greatly increased. Experiments in producing types of cattle suited to submontane conditions are encouraging.

Good work continued to be done in combating cattle disease, but the mortality from rinderpest was high. The

total number of animals treated in veterinary hospitals and dispensaries rose by over eleven thousand.

18 The quinquennial cattle census of the province taken in January, 1925 shows fair progress. The number of goats has doubled since 1920, but that of sheep is steadily falling. Camels have increased by 25 per cent. The census figures suggest that the draught cattle in the province are insufficient. Cattle census.

19. The Agricultural College and the Agricultural School attracted suitable students, quite a number of whom want to take up agricultural work either on their own account or with a view to service with landholders. A diplomate of Cawnpore was awarded a research studentship by the Central Cotton Committee and another was admitted to the post-graduate course at Pusa. A useful innovation was the short course of practical instruction started at Shahjahanpur for zamindars who want to open private farms. It has also been decided to hold a short six months' course for the training of fieldmen at Bulandshahr. Agricultural education.

20. The gardens attached to buildings of historical importance have been transferred to the Archaeological department, and from April, 1924 the Central Government has assumed liability for the cost of upkeep. All public gardens are now under the control of a Deputy Director in charge of gardens. Further economies reduced expenditure once more and little more can be done in this direction. The Horticultural department continued its useful experimental work on the prevention of plant disease, the improvement of storage methods for fruit and potatoes and the evolution of new types. Public gardens.

FORESTS.

21. The first results of giving effect to the recommendations of the Kumaun Grievances Committee were noticed in last year's report. Evidence is now accumulating that the scheme, so far from solving all difficulties, has only created new problems, and mainly to deal with these Government have created a consultative body, representative of local opinion, called the Kumaun Forest Committee. Disforestation and afforestation.

In the plains the afforestation of ravine and other areas—large and small—is proceeding satisfactorily, and the cost of

afforestation work is being progressively reduced. Two thousand two hundred and twenty-eight acres of new area were treated as against 2,128 in the previous year. The only failure was in Agra, where the rainfall was insufficient.

The great importance of fuel and fodder reserves in the economic life of the dweller in the plains is often not fully appreciated. Some landlords, seeing the success which has attended the afforestation of ravines, have invoked the assistance of the department in a similar enterprise in their own estates. As a rule, however, the land-owning class do not realize that their ultimate goal should be the covering of at least 20 per cent of each estate with woods from which they could obtain the fodder necessary for the stall feeding of their cattle and the timber and fuel essential for their household and agricultural wants. The existence of such reserves, the stall feeding of an improved breed of cattle, the cultivation on more modern lines of the rest of their estate, and the entire abolition of roaming herds of emaciated and degenerate cows and bullocks should be the ideal at which all should aim. Not until this ideal is attained will village communities be properly self-supporting and India be saved from the timber and fuel famine which otherwise is likely to come in the next two or three decades.

Production.

22. Owing to scarcity of seed little could be done in the way of natural reproduction of *sal*. Regeneration of *sal* by "coppice" continues satisfactory. Artificial reproduction of this species is successful only under the *taungya* system, where it is grown with catch crops. The results in Gorakhpur division have been excellent and the cultivators seem contented and ready to move on to fresh areas as soon as the *sal* crop they have created is safely established.

The total value of timber and fuel removed from forests amounted to Rs. 54.66 lakhs. Bamboos and minor produce were extracted to the value of Rs. 18.52 lakhs. The value of free grants of timber and fuel to right-holders and others amounted to Rs. 2.51 lakhs and of grazing and grass to Rs. 3.07 lakhs. Grazing was provided for 10½ lakhs of cattle; indeed this is an under-statement, as those in Kumaun forests are not enumerated.

23. Tramways continue to be extended and are proving profitable. The greater part of the tramway from Lalkua to the mouth of the Nandhaur valley was constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.31 lakhs, 14 miles of the line having been completed by the end of March, 1924. Another important line is a steam tramway for the development of the northern Gorakhpur forests. Good progress was made, and it is hoped to have the line working by April, 1926. Communications.

24. One of the most important features of the year has been the experiments with early controlled burning of *chir* forests in Kumaun. Till this problem is solved, and it will be solved, the successful regeneration of *chir* is a pure gamble, as one fire can wipe out the whole work of regeneration for 20 years back. It has been proved that early light fires, though they retard regeneration, can be so controlled that the ultimate establishment of the new crop can be made certain; and this is the sole hope under present conditions for the permanency of the Kumaun *chir* forests. General.

Every effort has been made to cut down expenditure, and the Ranikhet division in Kumaun has in consequence been abolished. Even in Kumaun, where the position is complicated, the revenue almost balanced expenditure. In other circles, specially the Eastern, expenditure bears an exceptionally low proportion to revenue. Funds are very necessary for developing communications without which forest resources cannot be properly exploited. Working plans have now been completely revised: plans for every division are practically complete and in future will come under revision in due rotation.

INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

25. Trade is steadily recovering from the depression through which it passed in 1921. Oil, leather, brass and copper have had a prosperous year. The import duty on gold thread has given the indigenous industry an importance which it has never before enjoyed. There was a noticeable improvement in the engineering industry: six new iron, brass and steel foundries were opened and two new engineering firms started work. Two existing companies extended their sphere of

operations. And taking the larger industrial concerns of the province together, the number of employees rose by 3,016.

Some industries on the other hand laboured under difficulties. Violent fluctuations in the price of raw cotton affected cotton spinners, and this in its turn reacted on the production of cloth, particularly in the case of hand-loom. Sugar had a bad year, as the price of *gur* was high and large imports of Java sugar kept the price of the refined product low. Glassware continued to suffer from German, Austrian and Japanese competition, and the outlook of this industry is gloomy.

Conditions were favourable to the silk industry, owing to an unprecedented fall in the price of silk yarn; but in spite of this manufacturers failed to make much headway.

Volume of
trade.

26. Both imports and exports increased during the year, a sure indication of returning prosperity. The general public is beginning to regain confidence after its disastrous experiences of 1921, and to this fact, combined with a somewhat easier money market, may be attributed the registration of 24 new joint stock companies as compared with sixteen in the previous year. Two-thirds of these came under the head of "trade and manufacturing companies," and there were four new mills and presses. A new banking institution was also opened. Trade with Nepal and Bhutan improved in volume, but the total value of exports and imports combined fell slightly.

Conditions
of employ-
ment.

27. Increased attention is being paid by the larger firms to the welfare of their employees. In this connexion honourable mention should be made of the British India Corporation of Cawnpore. The firms which this "combine" represents have always been pioneers in social welfare work among their employees, and their fusion has made possible further development along the same lines. Model villages have been built and dispensaries provided. Liberal grants are made to workmen's provident funds, and there is special provision for maternity cases and the care of mothers and infants. Some of the larger firms in Cawnpore are following this excellent example.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

28. Industrial education occupies the first place in the programme of the Industries department. Industrial schools perform a dual purpose. Their primary object of course is to turn out skilled craftsmen trained in up-to-date methods. But the industrial spirit which has grown up spontaneously in England has been hampered in India by caste and tradition, and it is only now beginning to assert itself. A secondary object of the schools is to foster this spirit and to induce in the students some of that wide outlook and enterprize without which industry can never really succeed.

Consequently much of the activity of the department has been focussed on industrial education, and the province now stands first in India in the number of its State or State aided schools. By the end of 1926 nearly every district in the province will have a school: in the case of the aided schools half the expenditure is borne by the State and half by local bodies or other non-official organizations. Some of the larger institutions are unique in India.

The 1926 programme continues the policy of its predecessors. Much will be spent in opening and aiding new schools. It is proposed to grant short-term foreign scholarships to those actually engaged in industry, to enable them to widen their outlook and to study at first hand the latest European improvements. Other features of the programme are expenditure on demonstrating modern methods of oil pressing and aid to the struggling match industry. A "State Aid to Industries Act" is contemplated. The Stores Purchase department, at present temporary, is to be made permanent.

Cottage industries have not yet succumbed in the competition with mills; 28 per cent. of the cloth consumed in the province is still made by cottage weavers, and this is only one instance. But the weavers are handicapped both in purchasing their raw material and in marketing the finished product by lack of organization. It is therefore proposed to open a yarn store under departmental control to supply yarn to weaving co-operative societies and thereby to eliminate the middleman. For the finished product the Government have established an emporium at which specimens of every kind of handicraft made in the province are on exhibition and sale.

The emporium has now been located in the best shopping centre, viz., Lucknow, where it can be seen by visitors from abroad and thus perhaps be introduced to wider markets.

In April, 1924 the Government appointed a committee, with a non-official majority, to examine the industrial policy of the province. Its terms of reference were :—

- (i) to suggest methods of developing provincial industries;
- (ii) to examine the existing system of technical and industrial education and to suggest how it could be improved; and
- (iii) to examine and report upon the existing system of purchasing stores through the provincial Stores Purchase department.

The committee's report, which was received in March, 1925, indicates that no change of policy is required. The Government are proceeding along sound lines in their methods for promoting industrial development, and all that is required is to expedite progress along the established lines as quickly as funds will permit.

COMMUNICATIONS, BUILDINGS AND POWER.

Railways.

29. For some years railway expansion has made slow progress and a long list of projects maintained by the Provincial Board of Communications awaits consummation. The only line under construction during the year was the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway branch line from Rikhikesh Road station to Rikhikesh. New proposals include the extension of narrow-gauge railways towards the undeveloped forest areas.

Roads.

30. Roads have been progressively deteriorating during the last few years : but this process has at last been arrested, though lack of money has so far made it impossible to repair the damage entirely. The employment of more modern methods of road construction will, it is hoped, do much to improve the general condition of the provincial roads and may possibly reduce the cost of their upkeep. Expenditure on the construction of new roads and on repairs to old roads increased from Rs. 5.89 and 28.7 lakhs to Rs. 11.90 and Rs. 35.51 lakhs respectively. Unfortunately against this increased activity must be set the

damage to roads and bridges, estimated at more than eighteen lakhs of rupees, caused by the floods of September, 1924.

31. The reorganization of the Public Works department has now been completed in accordance with the recommendations of the Economy and the special Public Works department committees. Separate circle offices have been abolished, and the offices of Superintending Engineers have been amalgamated with that of the Chief Engineer. A provincial subordinate service has been formed, and the cadre of the Imperial Service cut down. These changes designed mainly for the sake of economy have diminished the importance of the department and necessitated the transfer of many of its former duties. Heads of departments are now responsible for the maintenance of all residential buildings except those occupied by members of the Government and of the Public Works department, and most of the local roads have been handed over to district boards.

Reorgani-
zation
of the
Public
Works
department

In the autumn of 1924, the headquarters office of the department was transferred to Lucknow, whither it was followed a year later, by the Irrigation branch.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

32. The floods of September, 1924, affected the co-operative movement as much as it affected most other administrative departments, and the financial results of the year were not as good as in the previous year. Advances increased in amount, and it was impossible to make full collections. The net profit fell slightly, while the percentage of arrears to total outstandings increased. But these are temporary effects. The movement itself is healthy enough, and the great caution used in registering new societies is beginning to bear fruit. One excellent sign is the fact that no less than 52 per cent. of the total capital of Rs. 112 lakhs is owned by banks and societies in the shape of share capital and reserve and other funds.

Progress
in 1924 and
1925.

Much progress has been made in weeding out unstable societies, of which 130 were dissolved in 1924-25 and 48 in the second half of 1925. In spite of this, however, the total number of societies rose by 249 and 83 in those periods; and at the end of June, 1925 there were 161,000 members. A

new departure was the formation in Saharanpur of a society for the consolidation of agricultural holdings, an ideal for which the department is constantly striving.

A weak point in the department is its non-credit societies. At the end of 1925 there were only thirty-two of these (including three central institutions) as compared with 6,078 credit societies (including 72 central banks). And of this thirty-two, few are prospering and many are practically dead already.

In general, however, the movement is flourishing and profiting from the mistakes made in the early days of enthusiasm. Its capital is large, and some difficulty is experienced in employing balances profitably; the number of societies which have to go into liquidation is still large, and though substantial collections have been made from the liquidated societies arrears are still heavy. The department is handicapped by the inadequacy of its staff, and it is frequently hard to instil into honorary workers a practical knowledge of the principles on which the movement must be based. But many of these handicaps can be removed, and in September, 1925 the Government appointed a committee (consisting of two officials, four non-official elected members of the Legislative Council and four other non-officials with an intimate experience of co-operative work) to consider measures for expediting its progress on sound lines. The committee has concluded its sittings, but has not yet submitted its report.

Administration.

33. Great help is given at headquarters by the Standing Committee of Co-operators, and a co-operative journal has been started by them. The audit of societies is much in arrears and in spite of an increase in the number of auditors, a further increase is now proposed.

EDUCATION.

General.

34. The year 1924-25 was one of sustained progress in the expansion of education. The number of institutions rose from 22,367 to 23,154 and of scholars from 1,150,762 to 1,192,415. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 2.35 lakhs to Rs. 303.86 lakhs, provincial revenues contributing Rs. 172.28 lakhs. The total of Hindus under instruction increased by 3.19 and of Muslims by 5.91 per cent.

35. The two leading vernaculars of the province, Urdu and Hindi, are gaining recognition as subjects of scientific study; M. A. classes in them were opened at Allahabad, and the Lucknow University recognized them as subjects for the B. A. pass degree in conjunction with the classical languages to which they are allied. An endowment of half a lakh of rupees from the late Lt.-Col. Kamta Prasad for the chemical analysis of Indian medicinal herbs has enabled the Allahabad University to found two research scholarships. A number of new chairs for different subjects were created in all four universities. The demand for military training exceeds the present capacity of the University Training Corps. **University education.**

A conference of the Vice-Chancellors and other members of the four universities was held in June, 1925, chiefly to consider how far the work of the universities in advanced and specialised studies could be co-ordinated. As a result of the conference a committee was appointed which presented a report in November, 1925. The report is receiving the attention of the Government.

Government have decided to proceed with the Agra University Bill, which, if passed, will enable the Allahabad University to develop as a residential and teaching university.

A committee appointed to consider the finances of the Lucknow and Allahabad Universities recommended among other things that Government should give the universities large grants to enable them to carry on their work properly. A block grant of Rs. 7.87 lakhs was accordingly given to the Lucknow University for a period of five years. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 20,000 has been given for the library of the Aligarh Muslim University.

36. Three distinct bodies, viz., the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, the Benares Hindu University and the Aligarh Muslim University, control high school and intermediate education in the province and hold examinations equivalent to the old Matriculation or S.-L. C. and Intermediate examinations. **Secondary education.**

The Board has made a regulation permitting candidates for the High School examination to answer questions in

English, Urdu or Hindi in all subjects other than English. This regulation will be brought into force from the examination of 1927 in the case of certain subjects. It has also recognized a special optional subject called physiology hygiene and child study for the Intermediate examination for girls only. Spinning has been added as an optional subject for the junior classes of Anglo-Vernacular schools for girls. The Board have also framed a regulation for an agricultural diploma examination.

The Vernacular Middle schools, in which enrolment rose by 2,232, are mostly maintained by district boards and have nearly 50,000 pupils on the rolls. English has been introduced in some of these schools as an optional subject. Since the close of the year the Government have decided to give grants-in-aid to 41 district boards for the opening of English classes, one in each district. Government are also aiding, with effect from July, 1926, fifteen selected district boards to introduce manual training in middle vernacular classes. The need for better buildings is pressing, but cannot be met adequately for want of funds.

**Primary
Education.**

37 The number of primary schools increased by more than 800 and of scholars by more than 35,000. The total expenditure on vernacular primary education was over Rs. 71 lakhs, of which Government contributed more than Rs. 51 lakhs. These figures, however, hardly suggest the complexity and importance of the problems of primary education which the Government have to solve. By far the most important problem to which the Government have been giving attention is one of removing illiteracy among the masses. More municipal boards have decided to introduce compulsion; the total number of such boards has risen to 21. The Government placed the Deputy Director of Public Instruction on special duty in August, 1924 to study how primary education could be spread effectively in rural areas and to explore the possibilities of introducing compulsion. In his report which was published in February, 1925 he recommended among other things that compulsion should be introduced in rural areas on a permissive basis. This recommendation has been accepted by Government and a Bill has been drafted to give effect to it.

The Deputy Director of Public Instruction also collected figures which revealed considerable wastage. The total enrolment in primary schools during the year ending March 31, 1924 was 809,749. Of this the enrolment of classes IV to A was as follows —

Class IV	.	41,353
Class III	.	63,088
Class II	...	91,043
Class I	..	135,478
Class B	..	168,323
Class A	.	310,464

The figures show that the numbers are very unequally distributed among the six classes. They steadily decrease as the classes move upwards and a large majority of boys drop out before they reach class IV. It is obvious that quite a large number of boys who join primary schools lapse into illiteracy again and that a large amount of public money is thus wasted. The recommendations made by the Deputy Director to stop this wastage have been closely examined by Government who are taking suitable action.

38. The position in regard to female primary education is not very satisfactory. There has been a decrease in the number of girls attending primary schools. Many schools are still held in unsuitable buildings. The teachers are ill-paid and the equipment is often poor. Taken as a whole, however, female education has expanded more rapidly than in previous years. The three normal schools at Lucknow, Bareilly and Allahabad are doing good work, but have reached the limit of expansion. The two University Colleges, viz., the Crosthwaite College, Allahabad, and the Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, have had a successful year. The latter institution is now housed in a fine building and is doing noteworthy work for the higher education of women.

39. The physical training of students is an urgent matter, but unfortunately has not received the amount of attention which it deserves. A committee has been appointed to examine this important question and to advise Government as to the best method of proceeding in the matter.

Female
education.

Miscellaneous.

A number of European schools, specially intended for the poorer classes, are now turning their attention to vocational training with a view to equip the students better to earn their living.

Education is given to the depressed classes in schools specially set apart for them, at the end of the year these schools had an enrolment of 23,000

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Births and deaths.

40 1923 was an unusually healthy year 1924 suffered from a severe epidemic of cholera and could not in consequence maintain the same high level, but 1925 again showed an improvement. The feature of that year was the remarkable fall in infantile mortality, the rate for which was only 176·5 per thousand births as compared with 200·4, the mean of the five preceding years. The following table shows the general birth and death-rates per thousand over the last three years:—

	Birth-rate	Death-rate.
1923	.. 36·04	23 37
1924	.. 34·72	28 29
1925	.. 32·12	24·80

As usual, fevers (mostly of the malarial variety) claimed the largest number of victims during the three years. In 1924 deaths from small-pox were many, and in this respect the figures for 1925 are still worse; but deaths from cholera and fevers were much lower in 1925 than in 1924.

Public Health services.

41. The main activities of the Public Health department can be briefly summed up as the control of epidemic diseases, such as plague, cholera and malaria, and the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, such as phthisis and leprosy. In connexion with the prevention and cure of plague, an officer was sent to Bombay for training in methods of classifying rat fleas and other branches of plague research. He has since returned and been placed on special duty for plague research work. Information about the geographical distribution of rats and rat fleas in the United Provinces is already being collected as a preliminary to an inquiry into the cause of plague and the methods by which it is spread. On the practical side, local bodies were encouraged by grants

to assist evacuation where necessary, and other methods of prevention were freely employed.

The last two years have also seen much progress in the campaign against malaria. A permanent malariology branch was established in March 1925. Anti-malarial measures continued with vigour at the headworks of the Sarda canal, and a complete drainage system has been planned; the work when completed will prevent mosquito-breeding within about half a mile of the area treated. This area will be permanently occupied by the staff after the completion of the headworks. The work of making malarial surveys continued, and where financial conditions have permitted the works which they show to be necessary have been carried out with satisfactory results.

The whole of the Government Bhabai estates and the Gadaipuri tahsil were surveyed in 1924. In 1925 malarial surveys of the villages of Kiithal (Meerut district), of Haidwar, Kankhal and Jwalapur and of the site for the proposed police lines in Lucknow were also carried out. The towns of Kosi, Moradabad and Bareilly were also visited in order to select mosquito-breeding grounds to be dealt with as anti-malarial works.

Perhaps it was in fighting cholera in 1924 that the department gained its greatest successes. In spite of the constant importation of infection into the eastern districts of the province from the neighbouring districts of Champaran and Saran (Bihar,) where the epidemic was exceptionally severe, the death record of the whole province did not rise above 48,000 or less than a third of the mortality of the 1921 epidemic. Much of the credit for this was due to the medical officers of health in the eastern districts where the medical health scheme is in force. About 26,600 pounds of permanganate of potash were distributed in 1924. In 1925 14,735 pounds were distributed in the twenty "cholera districts" of the Benares, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Fyzabad divisions. In addition to this, liberal grants were given to local authorities. The cholera scheme in force in the districts of the Kumaun division and the modified scheme in operation in the villages along the pilgrim route in Garhwal were both useful in dealing with outbreaks of the disease.

For the prevention of epidemics the improvement of general sanitary conditions and for general propaganda on the subject of hygiene, rural sanitation and public health, the most effective agency is the trained medical officer of health employed by municipalities for urban areas and under the district health scheme for rural areas. Several municipal boards have employed such officers, and it is hoped that many more will follow their example. The district health scheme for rural areas has become remarkably popular. Its progress was helped by the fact that some members of the Legislative Council made personal inspections and saw the scheme actually at work. Up to the end of March, 1925 it was in operation in five districts. By the end of 1925 the number had risen to sixteen, and the scheme will be extended to four more as soon as funds permit.

Some improvement is noticeable in the reliability of municipal water supply systems, chiefly owing to the efforts of the inspecting and engineering sections of the Public Health department. The Lucknow water-works are being reorganized, and in addition to a grant from the Board of Public Health a loan of Rs. 3.06 lakhs was given to the municipality for the purpose. Other grants were made by the Board for rural sanitation and pilgrim centres: in all Rs. 7.21 lakhs were allotted. In addition to the loan mentioned above, Government lent Rs. 2 lakhs for the Bhilari pumping station at Mussoorie and a lakh for the water supply scheme at Dehra Dun.

Without assistance of this sort municipalities are rarely able, or willing, to undertake large schemes of sanitary improvement. Nor have district boards yet shown much anxiety to promote sanitation and hygiene in rural areas.

Child and
maternity
welfare.

42. There are now eleven centres of maternity and child welfare in the province, and in ten places *dais* are trained at Dufferin hospitals. The national baby weeks held during 1925 have led to an increase in the number of centres, and there is a flourishing United Provinces branch of the All-India Lady Chelmsford League.

Medical
relief.

43. The present policy is to reduce the number of travelling dispensaries as much as possible, and in consequence twenty-eight more were brought under reduction in

1924. In spite of this there was an actual increase of 178,000 in the number of patients treated. The reason is that the savings arising from the abolition of travelling dispensaries are being better utilized by district boards to bring medical treatment within reach of villagers in other ways. In 1925 Rs. 80,000 were spent in opening new dispensaries and in subsidising private practitioners to settle in rural areas.

Other activities of the department may be briefly mentioned. At Agra the women's medical school has now been separated from the men's. During 1925 a committee was appointed to advise Government as to what steps should be taken to improve and encourage the study of the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine. The committee's report is now under the consideration of the Government.

A sum of Rs. 48,000 was spent in the development of indigenous systems of medicine, chiefly by way of grants to various institutions. An organized effort is being made to check the spread of tuberculosis: in this, and indeed in other branches of the department's work, even more encouraging than the actual results achieved is the growing interest shown by the people in medical and public health problems.

TOWN IMPROVEMENT.

44. The Improvement Trusts at Allahabad, Lucknow and Cawnpore still labour under some difficulties but their programmes have now been restricted and defined by the committee which examined the position in 1924, and within those limits their work progresses well. The recommendations of the committee, which were summarised in last year's report, were substantially accepted by Government. Useful economies in establishment have been effected, and Allahabad has now been given an honorary chairman. These measures remove the cause for the criticisms levelled at the disproportionate cost of the establishment compared with the work done. Many of the large schemes framed in the first years of enthusiasm have had to be modified or postponed but the financial position is now clear, and the Trusts have sufficient resources at their command to enable them to proceed steadily, if slowly.

In Allahabad the Mir-Khan ki Sarai and a part of the zero road schemes were completed and three important schemes, Katra, Rambagh and Bairana, were taken in hand.

In Cawnpore the Khalasi lines site is still unpopular. Both the premium rates and the ground rent have been reduced, but builders will not take it up. On the other hand, many applications were received for the grant of land at concession rates in the Sisamau area from employees of the Government and other offices.

Construction work was hampered by the general tightness of the money market, by trade depression and the absence of an adequate and assured water supply. The Municipal Board expects to take up the reorganization of the water-works in the near future, and this will remove one of the difficulties.

In Lucknow good progress was made in the construction of another section of the new sanitary road. The work of metalling the central road in the industrial area was completed. A number of open spaces were provided in Ahiyaganj and Chauk. A new vegetable market, centrally situated and a great improvement on the old type of vegetable "mandi," was opened by His Excellency the Governor in October, 1925. It has successfully aimed at adapting modern sanitary ideals to the necessities of an oriental market. In Hazratganj the Prince of Wales Theatre was completed and the Amjad Ali Shah Makbara scheme progressed. The appearance of this important street was greatly improved by the completion of a large block of shops, well situated and designed.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

General summary-

45. The financial prospects were favourable when the year 1924-25 opened. The budget provided for receipts under revenue heads amounting to Rs. 12,62.81 lakhs and expenditure amounting to Rs. 12,54.69 lakhs. Including debt heads the closing balance was estimated at Rs. 1,05.58 lakhs, of which Rs. 62.26 lakhs belonged to the Famine Insurance Fund and Rs. 43.32 lakhs were available for general purposes. But the disastrous floods of September, 1924 upset all

estimates The losses of revenue under Land revenue and Irrigation alone accounted for a total loss of Rs. 35 lakhs. The cost of restoring damaged canal works, roads, bridges and buildings and of assisting the district boards to restore similar damage in their spheres of operation amounted to about Rs. 59 lakhs. A sum of nearly Rs. 33 lakhs was advanced as taqavi. The total burden imposed on the province was about Rs. 127 lakhs, of which about Rs. 75 lakhs fell in the year 1924-25. At the close of the year, therefore, instead of a surplus of Rs. 8.12 lakhs there was actually a deficit of Rs. 42.96 lakhs.

The effect of the floods was reflected in the budget for 1925-26. Government anticipated a deficit of Rs. 43 lakhs. But the Legislature declined to sanction a proposed extension of the Stamp Amendment Act, which raised the deficit to Rs. 50 lakhs. Fortunately just when the year began the Government of India announced that they would reduce the contribution of the province from Rs. 240 lakhs to Rs. 183.83 lakhs. This concession more than covered the deficit. It also enabled the Government to present in April, 1925 supplementary estimates to the extent of Rs. 8 lakhs to meet expenditure on certain urgent requirements which they had postponed in view of the difficult financial position.

EXCISE.

46. For the fourth year in succession there has been a Consumption fall in the consumption of excisable articles; the only stimulants which do not share in this decrease are *ganja*, beer and foreign spirit. Another feature of the year was the poor yield of *tari*, chiefly on account of heavy rains. Revenue fell from Rs. 127.01 lakhs to 124.83 lakhs.

47. The present policy of the Government is to promote Excise the cause of temperance, and revenue has been sacrificed without hesitation to achieve this object. The excise revenue of this province works out at four annas and five pies per head of population, and is the lowest in India. The figures of other provinces vary from five annas and one pie in the North-West Frontier Province to Rs. 2-5-5 in Bombay.

In pursuance of this policy, the number of shops and the hours of sale have been curtailed. The sale price of *charas* has been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 a seer and the

contract system for the supply of drugs now obtains over the whole province. The Legislative Council passed the Opium Smoking Act, designed to check the practice of opium smoking in public. With country spirit in particular, the policy of raising the price and decreasing the opportunities of buying it has gone so far that the position in certain areas is little removed from absolute prohibition.

**Assessment
of licence
fee.**

48. The contract supply system and its auxiliary, the graduated surcharge system, have been extended in respect of hemp drugs to the 16 districts in which the farming system was in force in the previous year. The entire province is now under the surcharge system for the assessment of license fees on drugs. A revised scale of license fees was introduced from April 1, 1924, with a view to secure to the State a larger share of the profits of the trade. An export duty was imposed on country-made foreign liquor, country spirit and *charas*. The cultivation of the hemp plant was prohibited from October 1, 1924.

**Excise
crime.**

49. Opium smuggling is believed to be on the decline. This is ascribed chiefly to the diminishing demand for opium in the countries of the Far East consequent on the widespread cultivation of poppy in China, and partly to the increasing obstacles imposed by the preventive staff on smuggling operations. But in other directions there has been a serious increase in excise crime. Prosecutions in respect of liquor rose from 1,200 to 1,735 and those relating to cocaine from 179 to 264. The offence of illicit manufacture of liquor is committed chiefly by the Pasis of Allahabad, Rae Bareilly, Partabgarh and certain other districts. The Pasis are poor, but as a caste they are addicted to drink. As licit spirit is now beyond their means, they resort to illicit manufacture. The cocaine traffic has proved too lucrative to be stopped by the vigilance of the authorities or the heavy sentences that have been imposed.

**Staff and
expenditure.**

50. One post of assistant excise commissioner was abolished. Ten new posts of inspectors and 40 posts of peons have been sanctioned from April 1, 1925. The post of deputy excise commissioner continued in abeyance. From April 1, 1925 a time-scale of pay has been sanctioned for excise inspectors. The total expenditure fell by half a lakh and new amounts to Rs. 5.94 lakhs.

51. The term of the first sixteen licensing boards created in 1922 expired in the month of December, 1925. Seven more licensing boards have been established. The boards have done valuable work. The advisory committees also acted on the whole with a due sense of responsibility. The Government summoned a conference of non-officials to advise on various matters of policy. The conference has issued a report, which is in general agreement with the policy of the Government, though it seeks to modify it in points of detail. Government have accepted many of the recommendations made and are now taking action accordingly. As a result, an excise board, with a non-official majority has been established to advise Government on all questions of excise affecting the province. The constitution of licensing boards has been determined—eight out of ten members on each board will now be elected. Licensing boards for rural areas will be established experimentally in selected districts. A bill embodying the principle of local option will be framed and widely circulated for opinion. The object is to invite free public discussion, as the measure bristles with practical difficulties. The system of selling liquor in sealed bottles for consumption 'off' the premises was enforced in Benares, and will be extended to 13 other districts. Habitual traffic in dangerous drugs extracted from coca, poppy and hemp will be dealt with under a Dangerous Drugs Act.

Licensing
boards and
advisory
committees.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

52. With the end of 1925 expired the term of the first non-official district boards. New institutions cannot be judged by ordinary standards. The boards had to find their feet without the official guidance to which they were accustomed. Moreover they laboured throughout under financial difficulties: much of the neglect of important services was due not to inherent inefficiency but to misdirected economy. Naturally they made mistakes, and as a rule they interested themselves too deeply in the ordinary details of administration and did not delegate enough power to their officers to deal with such matters. Attendance at meetings was good the first year, but declined afterwards.

District
boards.

The most disquieting feature is the financial position. The boards started life under difficulties, but they have made

few real efforts to overcome them. So far no board has had the courage to enhance the local rate, and only a few have taken the preliminary step of imposing the tax on circumstances and property, the yield of which is too small to make an appreciable improvement in the boards' position. Yet the incidence of taxation per head of population is remarkably low. As a result the effort to balance the budget has led to excessive economy over such important matters as road repairs and dispensaries. Metalled roads, which have now been transferred to district boards for maintenance, are often in a deplorable condition; the floods of 1924 only accelerated the rapid deterioration which was already proceeding. Some boards have drawn on the future by applying to current needs balances accumulated for other definite objects. Closing balances have progressively decreased, and the sale of investments has brought only temporary relief at the expense of future income.

Some allowances must be made for the newness of the boards. Three years is not a long period, and almost before the members had begun to settle down to their new duties they began to think of re-election. In the circumstances it was not perhaps to be expected that many would be ready to face the odium of new taxation. Existing sources of income were examined and as far as possible amplified; the income from cattle pounds showed a large increase. More is possible in the same direction, and greater experience may curtail the wasteful and improper expenditure to which audit officers frequently called attention.

The new elections were held in December, 1925. There is no striking change to report in the constitution of the new boards: national politics play a very small part in these elections, and the landlord influence still predominates. The new boards have the experience of the old boards to draw on, and progress should be more methodical and rapid. But real progress is impossible without a radical change in the financial position, and this can only be achieved by fresh taxation. It remains to be seen whether the new boards will show greater courage and foresight than their predecessors.

Municipal
boards.

53. Municipalities contrast favourably with district boards. Closing balances have increased; sales of investments have decreased; the total income has risen appreciably; and

they depend far less on Government aid—only one-eighteenth of their income comes from this source as against two-fifths in the case of district boards. In fact they are rapidly approaching financial stability. In some degree this is due to their more fortunate position as regards taxation. The burden of terminal taxation or of octroi is comparatively little felt. These forms of indirect taxation present few difficulties in collection. Enhancement of schedule rates is possible without incurring unpopularity or hampering trade. Even in the case of direct taxes, such as that on circumstances and property and the water rate, the public are gradually getting accustomed to them and pay without protest, provided that the assessment is equitable. Arrears are often heavy, but the yield is substantial.

The contrast continues in the record of work accomplished. Roads are improving. An increasing number of boards have arranged for electrical installations, and have introduced compulsory primary education. Water supply systems have generally improved, though here progress is not very rapid. Comparatively few boards have run their water-works at a profit, and in at least two cases a much needed re-organization has been retarded by interminable discussions as to the agency by which the work is to be carried out. The most conspicuous failure has been in the adoption of measures of public health and medical relief. The problem is a grave one: congestion and unhealthy surroundings take a heavy toll of human life in cities, and infantile mortality is exceptionally high. "Baby weeks" and the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres in a few places have brought some improvement: but this branch of municipal work receives as a rule far less attention than it deserves.

The internal working of the boards has not been harmonious. Political views have more influence on municipal boards than on district boards: but in this respect they are overshadowed by communal bias, which too frequently dictates the boards' action without any reference to the merits of a case. It even influences the selection of officers, and to this and to the consequent slackening of control over subordinate officials may be attributed some of the embezzlements and the waste of public money which have disfigured municipal history of the past three years.

In December, 1925, fresh elections were held and new boards have now come into office. There were some striking reversals of fortune at the polls. Of the swarajist board of Lucknow only one member has been re-elected; and in general the new boards are remarkably different in personnel to those which they have replaced. If, as is possible, this represents a growing sense of responsibility on the part of the electorate, it is a happy sign. The new boards have inherited a fairly satisfactory financial position, but there is still much room for improvement. The rigorous economy which has resulted in the increase of closing balances has been directed in many cases towards services which cannot be starved if the health and comfort of the cities under their control is to be maintained. An expansion of income is urgently necessary, and fresh taxation must be considered. This probably means direct taxation; octroi is not capable of indefinite enhancement. If the new boards have the courage to do this, and at the same time are able to improve the machinery of collection and to exercise a stricter control over subordinate officials, their prospects are bright.

**Pancha-
yats.**

54. The functions of a village-panchayat are to settle petty local disputes and to improve rural sanitation. How far this revival of an ancient institution has succeeded it is difficult to say, as the experiment has not had a very long trial yet. Some divisions report satisfactory work: others throw grave doubts on the capacity of panchayats to perform any useful work and mention the large number of applications made to transfer cases from them to the regular courts.

In the circumstances the only conclusion which can be drawn from a short experience of the working of panchayats is the sufficiently obvious one, that practically everything depends on the personnel and the environment of the panchayat. A panchayat composed of unsuitable persons or located in the midst of a hotbed of intrigue will inevitably do more harm than good. But where the panches are men of character and independence, much useful work can be, and is in fact, achieved. The moral is that the interests of the movement can be better served at this stage by weeding out the bad panchayats than by a promiscuous opening of new ones. This indeed has already been realised in 1924-25 the

total number fell by 97, and in September, 1925, stood at 4,608.

In one respect the experiment has not fulfilled expectations. The evidence that is slowly accumulating suggests that it is a mistake to think that panchayats will give much relief to the regular courts. On the contrary their chief function seems the provision of means of redress in petty cases which would never reach the ordinary courts. The village money-lender certainly finds them useful. This is not likely to add to their popularity; on the other hand, if they increase the money-lender's sense of security, that is equivalent to increasing the villager's credit; and there may result a lowering of the rates of interest. It must, however, be admitted that there is as yet no definite evidence that this is happening.

Opinion is divided as to how far they have achieved any improvement in village sanitation. No elaborate schemes of course are required of them: it is something if they repair old wells and fill up insanitary hollows. On the whole, this appears to be the most successful branch of their work. Meanwhile, other experiments are being tried: panchayats have been given the power to hold inquests in cases where there is no *prima facie* suspicion of foul play, and to investigate petty cases of burglary and theft. Some officers have recommended combining them with the panchayats of co-operative societies and appointing them as committees of management of village schools. Admittedly the movement is still in an experimental stage. Its potentialities are great, and it is no condemnation of the system as a whole to point out that the only definite fact which has yet emerged is the necessity to proceed slowly, to weed out ruthlessly all failures and to create new panchayats only when the material is good and local conditions give promise of success.

CONCLUSION.

55. There is little to add by way of conclusion. The history of the province during the period under review contains nothing spectacular: probably the advance made has been none the worse for that. There have been difficulties to meet: economic prosperity was threatened by the disastrous floods of

1924, and orderly progress in many directions is hindered by communal bitterness which seems to gain fresh strength from every manifestation of it. But progress has been made in spite of it. Political rancour has subsided, and the Legislative Council has settled down to its work and passed many useful measures. At the moment rural problems are to the front—village sanitation and health, agricultural development, education in rural areas, the improvement of the relations between landlord and tenant: and in all these things a real advance is being made. Possibly the best sign of all for the future is the improvement in the provincial finances. Other features of the year have been noticed in the preceding pages: it is unnecessary to repeat them. Much undoubtedly remains to be done; but the province is by no means standing still.

PART II.—DETAILED CHAPTERS.

INTRODUCTORY.

The following subjects are dealt with once every ten years. Except for notable changes described in the reports of succeeding years, the latest information about them is embodied in the General Administration Report for 1921-22 and will be found at the pages in that report indicated below :—

	Pages.
(1) Physical features, area, climate and chief staples of the province	1—11
(2) Historical summary	14—64
(3) Form of administration	64—66
(4) Character of land tenures	67—72
(5) Civil divisions of British territory	72-73
(6) Details of the last census	73—78
(7) Legislative authority	93—96
(8) General system of public instruction	153—160
(9) Literary societies	172-173
(10) Ecclesiastical jurisdiction	176—178

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND CONDITIONS.

1. Changes in the administration.

1. The Hon'ble Sir William Sinclair Marris, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., held charge of the provinces throughout the year.

There was no change in the Executive Council, the Hon'ble Sir S. P. O'Donnell, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., being Finance Member and the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Muhammad Ali Muhammad Khan, Khan Bahadur, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., of Mahmudabad, Home Member. Transferred subjects were administered by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ahmad Sa'id Khan, C.I.E., M.B.E., of Chattari, and the Hon'ble Rai Rajeshwar Bali, O.B.E., of Daryabad. The latter

assumed charge on January 12, 1924, in the vacancy caused by the death, at the end of 1923, of the Hon'ble Raja Parmanand, Rai Bahadur.

2. Character of the year.

(See Government resolution on Revenue Administration for the year ending September 30, 1924.)

Nature of
the weather
and its
effects on
crops.

2. The monsoons both of 1923 and 1924 were unevenly distributed at first, but were heavy in September, resulting in floods which, in 1924, were of unprecedented magnitude. The heavy rain at the end of the 1923 monsoon, however, did not cause damage on any considerable scale and ensured a fair *kharif* crop in 1923 and a good *rabi* in 1924, the winter rains in 1923-24 being slight but beneficial. Hence the total *kharif* area was only 4 per cent. short of the normal, while the *rabi* area was normal in Oudh and slightly above the average in Agra.

That the 1923 monsoon was on the whole a favourable one is shown by the further contraction, by no less than 19·01 lakhs of acres, of the irrigated area, the percentage of irrigated to cultivated area reaching the exceptionally low figure of 22·7. The outturn was good, that of *juar* being 90 per cent. of the normal, of sugarcane 95 per cent. and of cotton 80 per cent. Rice was not so good, the outturn being estimated at 70 per cent. for early rice and 75 per cent. for late rice. In spite of local damage by hail and cloudy weather, the *rabi* crops were uniformly excellent, the outturn of wheat being estimated at 90 per cent., of barley and opium 95 per cent., of gram 100 per cent., and of linseed and rapeseed 85 per cent. of the normal.

In March, 1924 a hailstorm in Bulandshahr caused serious damage in 51 villages. In April a remarkable tornado devastated three villages in the Hardoi district. The extent of the damage caused by the disastrous floods of September, 1924 has been described in the General Summary under the heading "General conditions." The floods injured the *kharif* crops of 1924, but were beneficial in many areas to the spring crops of 1924-25.

Prices.

3. In the beginning of the year under report prices (as in the previous year) were low. Large stocks of grain

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were held, Meerut, e.g., reporting 32 lakhs of maunds of wheat in grain pits. When in the spring of 1924 an excellent *rabi* crop was assured, prices dropped to a level which had not been known for many years. They continued easy till June, 1924, but rose sharply in July when the monsoon did not appear. Thereafter they remained more or less stationary till October, 1924. In November and December they again fell when the *kharrif* grain came into the market. But, chiefly as a result of the floods, the general level of prices was definitely higher towards the end of 1924 than at the close of 1923.

4. Conditions of trade were much the same as in the Trade. previous year except in grain which benefited by the rise of prices. Some districts reported remarkable figures. In Muzaffarnagar, for instance, exports rose from 11 lakhs to 17 lakhs of maunds, and in Budaun and Ujhani from 3 lakhs to no less than 14 lakhs. In the first half of 1924 there was an increase of 2½ lakhs of maunds in the export trade of Cawnpore and a corresponding increase in imports.

At Benares and Mirzapur trade was dull, and at Hathras the mills had a poor year. The heavier cotton crop, however, provided more work for the ginning and pressing factories. Gorakhpur did well with sugarcane, but in Rohilkhand prices declined and were on the whole unfavourable.

5. Owing chiefly to the heavy rainfall the year did not Health. maintain the good record of its predecessor. The total number of deaths rose from 10·81 to 12·12 lakhs. Fever and cholera took a heavy toll. Mortality from fever increased by 88,000. Cholera was responsible for 65,000 deaths of which 38,000 were reported in April and May, 1924.

3. Indian States.

(See the Annual Reports on Administration issued by the Rampur, Tehri and Benares States.)

RAMPUR.

6. The reorganization of the State Forces, begun in Notable 1923, has been completed, and expenditure on these rose events. accordingly by nearly a lakh to Rs. 7,32,000. Selected officers

and men were sent for training to various units of the Indian Army.

Among other liberal donations made by His Highness to public charities may be mentioned a gift of Rs. 10,000 to the Music College at Lucknow and one of Rs. 30,000 to the Leprosy Relief Fund

Condition of
the year.

The year's rainfall was heavy, 45.89 inches being registered. The *kharif* crop of 1923 was good, but the winter rains were untimely and the outturn of the *rabi* crop of 1924 was not satisfactory. The price of food-grains rose appreciably. The exceptionally heavy rain of September, 1924 brought disastrous floods, but increased the demand for labour to repair the damage caused. Wages accordingly rose higher than in the previous year. The birth-rate per 10,000 of the population rose from 197.96 to 222.99 and the death-rate from 121.09 to 172.92.

Revenue
adminis-
tration.

Excluding debt receipts and charges, the total demand and expenditure of the year was slightly in excess of Rs. 64.38 and Rs. 62.85 lakhs, respectively.

The total cultivated area rose from 356,453 acres to 362,116 acres, while the demand under land revenue fell by Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 37.04 lakhs. The decrease is due to the renewal of leases for certain villages at lower rates. Collections worked out at Re 0-14-6 per rupee of the demand. The number of retail liquor shops was the same (50) as in the previous year. Wholesale liquor shops increased from 5 to 6, and opium and *charas* shops from 30 to 31.

Police.

Crime, and in particular dacoity and burglary, decreased—the total number of reports falling from 816 to 572. The decrease in crime is due to the arrest of some notorious dacoits and the consequent dissolution of their gangs, as well as to the action taken under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Education.

Though the number of schools fell from 118 to 97, the number of scholars showed a slight increase. Six of the thirteen candidates sent up for the High School Examination passed. Forty-five scholars appeared in various examinations of the Punjab University and twenty-four passed. Expenditure on education amounted to about Rs. 63,000. The State also maintains a school for patwaris chiefly for training candidates for State service.

TEHRI.

7. The Representative Assembly constituted in the previous year held two sessions during the year under report. It passed the Motor Vehicles Act, the Tirtha Sudhar Act, the Municipal Act and the Town Areas Act. The reports of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Tehri-Garhwal Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code were presented, the former being adopted.

Notable
events.

His Highness accompanied by the Maharanis visited Europe. He was received by Their Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen Empress in June, 1924. During the year His Highness paid two visits to His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces.

Widespread distress was caused by the heavy floods on the Ganges and the Bhilangna in September, 1924. The floods lasted for about four days and caused extensive damage to crops, roads and bridges, the loss being estimated at about Rs 4 lakhs. The Darbar took suitable measures to relieve the resulting distress. Prices continued to rule high.

Conditions of
the year.

Receipts (which on account of the floods declined by over a lakh) amounted to Rs 14,05,947 and expenditure to Rs 14,05,837. Considerable loss to the forest revenue was caused by the washing away of a large quantity of timber by the floods. As in the previous year, the excise receipts showed a decrease. Settlement operations were completed during the year, and the settlement report was under preparation.

Revenue
adminis-
tration.

The State Forces are steadily expanding. A second labour corps was added during the year to the one already in existence, and the Darbar has earmarked staff and officers and non-commissioned officers to form a nucleus which can rapidly be expanded into other labour corps when required in a national emergency. A company of Sappers and Miners is maintained, and since the close of the year other additions have been made which can more suitably be described in the next year's report.

This tract enjoys a remarkable freedom from criminal offences as is evidenced by the fact that only 82 cases were reported during the year. There was no serious crime at all.

Enrolment in the high school and the Sanskrit Pathshala declined. The floods are to some extent responsible for the decrease. The number of village schools rose from 55

Education.

to 60 and there was a slight rise in the enrolment. The guls' school at Tehri suffered for want of a teacher. One student sent by the State to learn forestry in America finished his course there, and another was sent to England for the same purpose.

The floods caused a decline in forest revenue of Rs 4 36 lakhs. Felling operations continued on an extensive scale. The natural reproduction of *chir* continued to be satisfactory but oak and *deodar* regeneration was not so successful.

BENARES STATE.

Notable
events.

8 The most notable feature of the year was the completion of the reorganization of the State Forces. The State now maintains three active service companies and two reserve companies of infantry, as well as a squadron of cavalry and some camel sowars. Their armament has been brought up to date, and some non-commissioned officers have been sent on courses to Pachmahri and Satara to ensure that the training of these units is carried out on modern lines.

Conditions
of the year.

The harvest was practically normal and prices accordingly fell. Public health was good and there was very little epidemic disease either of man or beast. The cultivator was, generally speaking, more prosperous than in the previous year.

Revenue
adminis-
tration.

The total receipts amounted to Rs. 29 15 lakhs and the total expenditure to Rs 29 14 lakhs. Land revenue receipts rose by Rs. 49 lakh to Rs 12.77 lakhs. Receipts under excise rose by about a lakh to Rs. 3.25 lakhs. This was largely due to the fact that smugglers purchased drugs in large quantities from State shops in order to resell at a profit in British territory where higher rates prevailed. The State is taking energetic steps to stop this practice in concert with the excise officers of the United Provinces. The State considers it unfortunate that the consumption of country spirit and drugs also rose and is proposing to enhance the sale price of these commodities from the beginning of the next excise year in an effort to counteract this tendency.

Police.

Crime reports increased slightly from 533 to 622, the increase being due chiefly to petty cases. Burglary cases reported, however, rose from 339 to 401, the increase being

attributed to the fact that the courts did not deal adequately with convicted members of criminal tribes

Education.

There were two high schools in the State, while the number of vernacular schools rose by 1 to 83. Fees were abolished in middle schools in the course of the year and all vernacular education is now free throughout the State. There was a satisfactory improvement both in the number of scholars and in the standard of instruction imparted. Fifteen out of the nineteen candidates sent up for the High School Examination passed. Two boys secured distinctions in mathematics in the Middle School Examination, the percentage of passes rising from 85.7 to 86.5. The State also maintained two Sanskrit Pathshalas with 54 boys on the rolls.

The number of societies rose from 312 to 317. The advantages of the co-operative movement, however, are not yet properly understood and the education of the people must still take time.

Co-operative
banks.

4. Relations with tributary States and frontier affairs.

9 There is nothing of importance to record.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

5. Realization of the land revenue.

(See the Government resolution on Revenue Administration for the year ending September 30, 1924)

Total
demand
and collec-
tions.

10 The total revenue demand fell by Rs. 28 5 lakhs to Rs. 910 5 lakhs. This was accounted for by a decrease of Rs. 21 75 lakhs in takavi advances due for recovery and of Rs. 7 75 lakhs under occupier's rate. These figures reflect the weather conditions of the year, which led to a smaller demand for irrigation, and the general prosperity of the cultivator. The net demand for the year was Rs. 908 50 lakhs, of which Rs. 901 lakhs were collected. The outstanding balance at the end of the year therefore amounted to Rs. 7 5 lakhs which included Rs. 5 50 lakhs of uncollected takavi

Land
revenue.

11. The real land revenue demand rose by about a lakh to Rs. 686 06 lakhs. The new settlement in the Muttra district accounted for most of the increase. There were, however, suspensions on account of hail and floods amounting to Rs. 53,661 and remissions to the extent of Rs. 661. Hence the total amount for collection stood at Rs. 685 52 lakhs, of which all except Rs. 8,329 was collected.

Irrigation
and local
rates.

12 The demand under all heads, including the arrears of occupier's rate, was realized. As in the previous years, the disbursement of *malikana* was attended with difficulty all over the province (especially in the Gorakhpur division), chiefly because the payees do not take the trouble to recover the small sums due to them.

Advances

13. The demand for takavi decreased as the result of a good monsoon from Rs. 17 31 lakhs to Rs. 11 25 lakhs. The latter figure consists of Rs. 1 60 lakhs under Act XIX of 1883 and Rs. 9 65 lakhs under Act XII of 1885. Only three districts (Muzaffarnagar, Hardoi and Bulandshahr) took more than Rs. 20,000 each under Act XIX. Six hundred and thirty-seven wells were constructed, 552 were in course of construction and 185 wells were repaired. Three tube wells,

twenty-nine embankments and three tanks were constructed or repaired. A sum of no less than Rs. 8.23 lakhs under Act XII was taken for the purchase of seed and bullocks by the nine districts which had suffered most from the floods of September, 1923. Seven of these were in Oudh. The rest of the province required only Rs. 1.42 lakhs.

The advances of the year and of the preceding years brought the total amount outstanding on loan to Rs. 74.43 lakhs. Collections amounting to Rs. 30.39 lakhs reduced the total outstanding on September 30, 1924 to Rs. 45.30 lakhs, a sum which compares favourably with the amount outstanding at the end of the previous year (Rs. 62.21 lakhs).

Collections were satisfactory, being 84 per cent of the demand. The districts most in default are Muttra, Agra and Etah. The subject of takavi collections received careful attention in these districts. In fact the whole system of distributing and collecting takavi was under examination by the Government. It is hoped that the new rules which will be issued shortly will remove the existing difficulties and place the administration of takavi on a sounder basis.

14. The year was even more favourable than the year before for clearing off old arrears. Hence the number of ^{Coercive} processes rose from 215,330 to 221,987, but little more than half of these were for the recovery of land revenue proper. Only in 1,663 cases were defaulters detained, while immovable property was sold only in sixteen cases.

6. Settlements.

15. Settlement operations were in various stages of progress in the districts of Muttra, Agra, Unao and Partabgarh during the first half of the year. They were, however, stopped in April, 1924, in all districts but Muttra, owing to the refusal of the Legislative Council to vote the funds required. Settlement operations terminated in Muttra in February, 1925, though the final settlement report has not yet been sanctioned. Record operations have, however, continued in the districts of Agra, Budaun, Lucknow, Unao, Rae Bareilly, Hardoi, Partabgarh and Bara Banki—not only because these districts are due to come under settlement in the course of a few years, but

also because a periodical revision of the records is in itself important. The Deputy Director of Land Records prepared a forecast of the probable results of settlement in the districts of Sitapur and Bijnor. Rent rates under section 51D of the Oudh Rent Act were fixed for the Gonda, Bahraich and Kheri districts and were sanctioned by the Commissioner. Rent rates were also fixed in tahsils Unao (Unao) and Partabgarh (Partabgarh) by the respective record officers who were appointed special officers under sub-section (1) of section 52D of the Oudh Rent Act.

7. Land Records.

(See the report on Administration of Land Records for the year ending September 30, 1924.)

**Estab-
lishment.**

16. There was a net reduction of 45 posts consequent on the abolition throughout the province of the post of sadr kanungo from November, 1923. Headquarters office duties are now performed by a supervisor kanungo stationed at sadr. There was a further reduction of 23 posts of patwaris and assistant patwaris resulting in an annual saving of Rs. 3,180. The pay of 16 patwaris of the hill portion of the Naini Tal district was raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 26 per month. A higher scale of pay was sanctioned for the patwaris of the Dehra Dun district. Effect was given to a scheme of revision of patwaris' circles in the Basti district resulting in a saving of Rs. 3,624.

Kanungos.

17. One sadr kanungo was appointed permanently and three temporarily as tahsildars. Over 50 supervisor kanungos officiated as naib-tahsildars. As usual one diplomate from the kanungo school was selected for a direct appointment as naib-tahsildar. Three supervisors were appointed as survey experts for the revision of records and two were deputed to land acquisition work.

Patwaris.

18. There has been a slight decline in the percentage of qualified patwaris (from 97.23 to 96.90) and a slight rise in the number of unqualified patwaris (from 2.33 to 2.73 per cent.). The percentage of exempted patwaris dropped from 44 to 37.

Examination results were not as good as usual, except in the subject of patwari rules, in which the percentage of successes rose from 68·9 to 75·9 per cent.

The patwari schools at Allahabad and Hardoi were closed owing to the large number of qualified candidates available.

Resident patwaris now form 81·56 per cent. of the whole number, as compared with 80·45 in the previous year.

Three patwaris were promoted to be assistant registrar kanungos and two to be partition amins. Seventy patwaris were appointed to officiate as registrar kanungos and to other higher posts. One hundred and seventeen patwaris acted as supervisor kanungos and 22 as partition amins.

19. Gazetted officers naturally did little inspection of land records in the eight districts in which record operations were in progress. Elsewhere there was a satisfactory increase in the quality and quantity of inspection work, though map-testing still does not receive the attention which it deserves.

Testing of
papers.

The work of testing land records by tahsildars, naib-tahsildars and supervisor kanungos improved also, the number of entries tested by the supervisors being better than last year and well above the prescribed minimum.

20. Concealment of rent is suspected in many districts, but only in eight were definite cases of concealment reported. Gorakhpur is reputed to be the greatest offender in this respect, and there the amount collected in excess of the legal demand is reported to be considerable.

Concealment
of rent.

21. The committee appointed to consider the Deputy Director's suggestions for the simplification of land records issued their report in October, 1924. Important changes have since been sanctioned in regard to the Khewat, the Khatauni and the Khasra, and new rules are under consideration with the object of securing more effective supervision of land record work by revenue officers.

Records,
maps and
boundary
marks.

Tahsil registers were properly maintained and were reported to be up to date. The condition of maps however is very unsatisfactory and an organized effort to bring them up to date all over the province is being considered. Boundary marks were on the whole in good condition, except in the alluvial areas of the Ghazipur and Ballia districts. Some of the boundary marks, which were washed away by the Ganges in

the Unao district were replaced by iron rails fixed in pits of rammed *kankar*. It has yet to be seen whether this new type of mark will withstand the floods better than its predecessors.

8. Waste lands.

22. There is nothing of importance to record.

9. Government estates.

A.—KUMAUN ESTATES.

23. The Kumaun estates consist of the Tarai and Bhabar and the Garhwal Bhabar estates.

Tarai and
Bhabar.

The monsoon arrived late. But the total rainfall which averaged 56.44 inches in the previous year, rose by 33.5 per cent. Towards the end of September, 1924 there were exceptionally heavy rains. All the submontane rivers and hill torrents were abnormally swollen and caused considerable damage to the public works and villages of the estates. The late arrival of the monsoon as well as the heavy rains adversely affected the autumn crops. The tenants were, however, able to sow large areas for the *rabi* crop, the average outturn of which was 13 to 14 annas in the rupee. Wheat, barley and gram did well. The estimated yield of the rice crop in the *bhabar* was 14 annas. Sugarcane cultivation in the *tarai* was again successful. The "lahi" crop was not satisfactory, the sowings being delayed by the heavy rains of September and the late rains of October, 1924.

Except for the heavy rains and the resulting floods the year was a good one. Receipts rose by Rs. 22,282 to Rs. 9.02 lakhs. The new Bhabar settlement brought in a larger income from rents from cultivators. Receipts from forests and village grazing also rose. About ten thousand rupees was recovered on account of estate lands acquired by the Irrigation department for the construction of the Sarda canal. Expenditure fell by Rs. 11,481 to Rs. 5.39 lakhs, chiefly from considerations of economy. In consequence forest development and walling operations for the protection

of village sites and of cultivation from wild animals had to be postponed. Every effort was made, however, to repair the damage to villages and canals caused by the floods. The forest department of the estate continues to devote attention to the reproduction and regeneration of its forests and their protection from fire.

The year was on the whole healthy. There were no epidemics. The death-rate, as usual, exceeded the birth-rate; but the ratio of births to deaths improved, births rising from 3,256 to 4,040 and deaths from 4,544 to 4,983. The need to repair the damage caused by the floods had to take precedence of the policy of concentrating population and cultivation in healthy areas. One village was, however, completely removed, while three villages were in process of removal. Arrangements were in hand for the removal of three more villages which at present are situated in malarial tracts. Steps have also been taken to control the supply of water to unhealthy irrigated areas in the *Tarai*, as excess of water adversely affects those tracts. The Superintendent of the estates has prepared a project for the construction of model villages.

The number of schools rose by one and the number of scholars by 292. The number of Tharu scholars increased by 80 and of Muhammadans by 37. The work of the Co-operative Societies expanded. The collection of takavi was up to date.

24. The year was prosperous save for the heavy floods of September, 1924. The crops were good and rents were collected in full. No takavi was distributed. Trade was slack, well-to-do grain dealers having migrated to Najibabad or Dogadda. The total receipts rose from Rs. 35,227 to Rs. 38,765, in spite of remissions due to the floods. Ordinary expenditure amounted to Rs. 20,697, while special grants on account of flood damage amounted to Rs. 20,029. There were no epidemics, but deaths among tenants rose from 198 to 259. Two hundred and fifty-two deaths occurred from malaria and seven from other diseases. Mortality among cattle increased from 974 to 1,380. Attention was paid to the unsatisfactory condition of the canals. The diversion of the Sigadi canal was under construction.

Garhwal
Bhabar.

B.—OTHER ESTATES.

(See the Government resolution on Revenue Administration for the year ending September 30, 1924.)

Dudhi.

25 The total income of the estate, which is situated in the Mirzapur district, amounted to Rs. 54,011 and expenditure to Rs. 26,279 against Rs. 57,227 and Rs. 28,843 respectively. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of collections. Rupees 6,375 were spent on works of improvement, the outlay being again less than the normal owing to the need for economy. A special Forest Officer was appointed and the sum of Rs. 3,178 was spent on forest development. The contract for gathering lac was given to the Rogers Pyatt Shellac Company for nine years. It is hoped that a permanent improvement in the shellac industry will be the result.

Minor
estates.

26. The most important of these are situated in Allahabad where the cultivated area decreased by 59 acres and the current rental demand by Rs. 100 owing to a portion of the *kachar* land in four villages coming under diluvion. The cost of management rose from 12 to 12·5 per cent. Rupees 1,141 were spent on the repairs of wells and houses.

Efforts to dispose of petty and isolated properties continue. The total number of estate properties was 449 as against 461 in the previous year. One hundred and thirty-one of these were in Bundelkhand, 193 in Oudh, and 125 in the rest of the province. The total demand stood at Rs. 4·25 lakhs, of which Rs. 4·07 lakhs were collected.

10. Wards' estates.

(See the report of the Court of Wards for the year ending September 30, 1924.)

Estates
under
manage-
ment.

27. The number of estates under management rose from 147 to 161. Five estates with a rent roll of Rs. 1·99 lakhs were released from superintendence, while the Court of Wards assumed charge of 18 estates with a rent roll of Rs. 8·26 lakhs. The Sissendi estate in Lucknow was released after 17 years' of management, during which a sum equal to three times the amount of the annual rent roll was

invested or was spent on works of improvement. All the other estates released, except the Javaid Husain estate of Jaunpur which was found to be so encumbered that the Court of Wards was compelled to release it, are not only free from encumbrance but now possess enhanced rent rolls and large balances in cash or securities. Charge was assumed of two large estates, viz., Landhaura (Saharanpur) and Baraon (Allahabad). Extensive sales will be necessary to liquidate the debts on both.

28. The total rental demand advanced from Rs. 136·62 lakhs to Rs. 144·33 lakhs. The major portion of the increase accrued in the Balrampur estate, owing to the conversion of grain rents into cash rents. The year was a prosperous one and the percentage of collections of the net recoverable demand over most of the province was satisfactory. The total figures, however, fell from 96·4 to 94·8 per cent. owing to poor collections in Balrampur, where the conversion into cash rents was only completed late in the year. Collections of arrears continued to be satisfactory. It was necessary to secure Rs. 1·23 lakhs of arrears by obtaining decrees. Ordinary remissions amounted to Rs. 6,713, while suspensions on account of damage to crops stood at Rs. 2,142. Collections.

Collections generally improved, except in the Landhaura estate where charge was assumed only recently, in the small estates in Shahjahanpur district and the Morespivar Rao estate in Banda and Fatehpur.

29. The cost of management fell from Rs. 17·48 to Rs. 17·10 lakhs. The percentage of management charges to gross income fell to 11·4 per cent. Cost of management.

30. Debts repaid during the year amounted to Rs. 25·54 lakhs as against Rs. 40·07 lakhs in the previous year. The amount raised by loan for repayments was Rs. 6·08 lakhs less than in the previous year. The fall in repayments was partly due to the floods, which hampered collections; whilst inevitable expenditure on litigation, medical charges, marriage and similar ceremonies was heavier than usual. The total sum repaid was made up of Rs. 13·72 lakhs from surplus profits, Rs. 6·17 lakhs from sale of property and Rs. 5·65 lakhs from fresh loans on more advantageous terms. Besides Rs. 5·65 lakhs utilized for payment of debts, a loan of Rs. 38,000 was raised for ceremonies and other purposes. Repayment of debt.

Wards.

31 The cost of maintenance and education rose from Rs. 39 03 lakhs to Rs 45.12 lakhs, the increase being chiefly due to a rise of Rs. 5 lakhs in the allotment for the Balrampur estate. There were 92 wards including 11 girls between the ages of 10 and 21 years. Fifty-five boys were studying in schools and colleges and nine with private tutors. Eight were learning estate management and two wards joined the Auri cultural College at Cawnpore. Four girls were receiving education privately, while arrangements for the instruction of two others were under consideration.

Improvements.

32 Expenditure on all kinds of improvements rose slightly from Rs 13.44 lakhs to Rs 14 09 lakhs. Estate buildings account for nearly Rs 5½ lakhs of the total expenditure a third of this amount being spent in the Bahampur estate.

There were fourteen agricultural farms, one cattle-breeding farm, twenty-two seed dépôts and five poultry farms the increase being thirteen and one in the last two items. All save two of the agricultural farms and all the cattle-breeding farms worked at a loss. Twelve seed dépôts worked at a profit. Only one of the three poultry farms which submitted accounts earned a profit.

More than a lakh was spent on improvements to water supplies. Two hundred and seventy-seven masonry wells were completed or commenced.

The
Tenantry:
(a) Educa-
tion

33 Expenditure under this head amounted to Rs 1.35 lakhs. The latter figure does not include the sum of Rs. 28,671 which was spent on the repair and construction of school buildings. Forty-six schools were wholly maintained by the estates. Rupees 1 03 lakhs were paid to the Canning College, the Lucknow University and other institutions. The Nanpara Technical school made good progress, furniture made by boys being sold for Rs. 1,484. Travelling libraries, according to the system in vogue in the Baroda State, were introduced in the Nanpara and Bahampur estates and are becoming popular.

(b) Medical
and
sanitation.

The estates maintained twenty dispensaries at their own cost, including two travelling dispensaries. The total expenditure on medical aid and sanitation rose from nearly Rs. 1.06 lakhs to Rs. 1.13 lakhs. There was a slight increase in expenditure on sanitation from Rs. 24,545 to Rs. 26,422.

The number of co-operative societies rose by 82 to 767 with a working capital of Rs 3 80 lakhs. The progress, however, is not as real as these figures would suggest.

34 The attempt to reduce the volume of rent litigation only partially succeeded. The Court of Wards was a party to 31 civil suits exceeding Rs 10,000 in value. Of these the Court of Wards won thirteen cases and lost one. Two cases were withdrawn, four were compromised and eleven remained pending at the end of the year.

(c) Agricul-
tural banks.
Rent and
civil liti-
gation.

11. Revenue and rent-paying classes.

See Government resolution on Revenue Administration for the year ending September 30, 1924).

35. Mutations dropped by 19,366 to 247,490. The number of new cases fell by 10,307. Cases of redemption of mortgages also fell by 6,896. There was a change in the proprietary rights of certain large properties in Unao and Fyzabad districts under orders of court. There was an increase from 5 907 to 6,559 in new cases for the execution of civil decrees affecting ancestral property. In 1,973 cases the whole property had to be sold. In 220 cases only were Collectors able to avert sale.

Revenue
paying
classes:
Mutations
in the
revenue
papers.

36. New applications numbered 3,234 compared with 3,600 in the previous year, imperfect partitions falling by 364 and perfect partitions by two. The total number of cases for disposal was 8,249 (against 9,216 in the previous year), of which 3,903 cases were decided, leaving a balance of 4,346 at the end of the year as against 5,015 of the previous year. The increase in the number of local inspections by partition officers was only nominal. Complaints about the smallness of the area of *pattis* in imperfect partitions continue to come from many districts, as excessive fragmentation hampers efficient cultivation. Unfortunately no minimum area of *pattis* has been prescribed by law and the question of their size in imperfect partitions must be left to be determined by considerations of administrative convenience.

Partitions.

37. Institutions of new suits and applications rose from the previous year's record figure of 504,374 to 619,653. The increase was chiefly due to ejectment cases, to which all

Rent paying
classes:
Tenancy
litigation,
Agra.

divisions contribute, and to a smaller extent to enhancement suits.

Enhance-
ment of
rent

38. The rise in suits under this head from 35,101 to 41,583 was not as great as in the previous year when enhancement cases rose by 92 per cent. The increase, however, is very striking in the Furrukhabad and Benares districts. It is becoming increasingly clear that the present enhancement procedure is not satisfactory.

Ejectment
suits.

39. Owing to the imminence of the new tenancy legislation, the rise in the number of ejectment suits—by 116,894 to 272,197—was even more marked than the phenomenal increase of 25,649 of the previous year. All districts except those of the Jhansi division and the districts of Naini Tal, Shahjahanpur and Pilibhit, shared in the rise. The zamindars are intent on forestalling the proposed change in the law, by which a life-tenure is secured to all tenants in possession of land on the date on which the new Act is passed. In mahals where wholesale ejectment has been attempted proceedings have been stayed by executive order, and it will be for decision whether the new Tenancy Act should contain a special provision to quash these proceedings and confer statutory rights on the tenants of the holdings concerned.

Suits for
arrears of
rent.

40. The number of suits rose from 202,000 to 212,108, the increase being chiefly in the Rohilkhand and Meerut divisions. The season was good, and the slight rise was probably due to the better prospects of realising decrees.

Relinquish-
ments.

41. The number of surrenders also rose from 14,136 to 15,876. This is probably due to the anxiety of zamindars to bring on record evidence of transaction for impending litigation.

Protected
area.

42. The protected area comprises land held by occupancy tenants, land held by non-occupancy tenants for 12 years or more or under a lease of 7 years or upwards. This amounted to 15,465,468 acres or 73.7 per cent. of the total area held by the tenants. The protected area, which in 1901-2 was 63.5 per cent., rose from 73 per cent. in the previous year to 73.7 per cent. in the year under report. The area held for 12 years or more showed the greatest rise in the Agra and Muttra districts as the result of record operations.

43. The new Rent Act in Oudh has reduced litigation. The total number of suits and applications, which exceeded 90,000 in a normal year under the old Act, was only 64,318 in the year under report, being smaller by 14,083 than in the previous year. There were apprehensions that the new Act might result in increased litigation, as the result of the ejectment powers given to zamindars in cases of illegal subletting. The figures therefore are very satisfactory.

Rent
litigation
in Oudh

Conditions otherwise were more or less the same as in the previous year, except for a large rise in relinquishments from 2,342 to 5,387. The real cause of the increase in the number of surrenders has not yet been definitely ascertained. A number of causes may be responsible, e.g., the anxiety of zamindars to have relinquishments brought on record, the high wages which labourers can earn on canal works, the inability of the tenants to pay a high range of rents now that there has been a general fall in prices, and a cycle of heavy monsoons rendering low-lying land unfit for cultivation.

On the whole the provisions of the new Act which affect non-resident tenants may be said to have worked well. In certain circumstances section 30A empowers zamindars to acquire for their own use land held by tenants, and it was apprehended that the zamindars might abuse this process of law by making exactions under threats of ejectment. It is satisfactory, therefore, that the number of applications under section 30A declined from 968 to 421, the total area eventually acquired being 241 acres as against 854 acres in the previous year. Another item in the new law provides that a tenant who acquires proprietary rights, however limited, in a mahal loses his tenancy rights in it. Complaints have been received that this provision causes hardship.

44. The total number of applications for summary recovery of revenue on behalf of lambardars fell slightly from 2,456 to 2,400. Although new applications for summary recovery of under-proprietary rents in Oudh fell from 2,343 to 1,602, the total amount recoverable declined only slightly from Rs 1.70 to Rs 1.63 lakhs. As in the previous year the applications came chiefly from one estate in Bara Banki district, where relations between the proprietor and under-proprietors continue to be strained.

Revenue
court
work.

1924-25.]

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES.

21 Chapter II.
ADMINIS-
TRATION
OF THE
LAND.

pending at the end of the year was 779 as compared with 458 in the previous year. Of the total number of appeals for disposal during the year in all courts, 30 per cent. remained pending at the end of the year.

49. Honorary Assistant Collectors continued to afford real relief. One hundred and forty-nine were serving at the end of the year. They decided 71,711 cases as compared with 61,272 in the previous year.

Honorary
Assistant
Collectors.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

12. Course of legislation.

50. The following Acts were passed by the Legislative Council in 1924 and 1925 :—

- (1) The United Provinces Board of Revenue (Amendment) Act (I of 1924).
- (2) The United Provinces Stamp (Second Amendment) Act (II of 1924).
- (3) The United Provinces District Board (Amendment) Act (III of 1924).
- (4) The Agra Estates (Amendment) Act (IV of 1924).
- (5) The United Provinces Board of Revenue (Second Amendment) Act (V of 1924).
- (6) The United Provinces Public Gambling (Amendment) Act (I of 1925).
- (7) The United Provinces Opium Smoking Act (II of 1925).
- (8) The United Provinces Legislative Council Salary of President Act (III of 1925).
- (9) The Oudh Courts Act (IV of 1925).
- (10) The Agra Civil Courts (Amendment) Act (V of 1925).

The work of the Legislative Council during 1924 was described in the general summary of the report for 1923-24. Its work during 1925 is described in this year's general summary.

13.—Police.

(See the report on the administration of the police for the year ending December 31, 1924.)

General
survey.

51. The volume of crime in the year under report was the lowest during the last 10 years, the decline being general, but most marked in cases of burglary and theft. The

specially trained force under an experienced Superintendent continued to grapple with the problem of dacoity, the figures for which, though still disquietingly high, show a very substantial reduction. The quality of the work here is even better than the figures, because attention has been successfully concentrated on organized crime and dangerous gangs of long standing.

These results were secured in spite of serious tension, throughout the province, between the two leading communities with its attendant disorders. Grave disturbances occurred in Shahjahanpur, Lucknow and Allahabad necessitating military assistance and imposing a heavy burden on the police not only in the towns mentioned, but by their reactions generally throughout all districts. Labour troubles at Cawnpore provoked a serious outbreak at the Cawnpore Cotton Mills in February, 1924. The police behaved with exemplary patience, but had in the end to fire on the mob. Apart from their normal duty, the police gave a good account of themselves in the disastrous and unprecedented floods of the autumn of 1924 when all the resources of Government over a large area were taxed to the utmost in rescue work and relief.

The year's work was carried out in spite of some shortage in the gazetted ranks and of a further reduction in strength. Circle inspectors were reduced by 38 and village chaukidars by no less than 8,105. These reductions were forced upon the Government by lack of money.

52. The total number of offences reported dropped from 133,196 to 130,804, or by 17 per cent. The chief fall is under class I (offences against the State, public justice, currency, weights, measures and public tranquillity), class III (serious offences against property) and class V (minor offences against property). Nuisances alone show an increase. Rioting, like dacoity, shows a substantial fall. Murder cases were fewer than at any time in the last 10 years. Crime figures.

Non-cognizable crime dropped by 10,853 from 157,226 to 146,373.

53. The total number of cases reported (including those pending from 1923) totalled 135,727. Investigation was "refused" in 17.74 per cent. of these as against 20.08 of the Investigations.

previous year. There is still room for a more judicious exercise of the discretion allowed in refusing investigations, but the reduction in the number of circle inspectors and the curtailment of touring by gazetted officers necessarily means less efficient supervision over investigations.

A steady improvement in the quality of detective work is evidenced by the fact that the percentage of convictions to investigations (24·8) is the highest of the last 11 years. The percentage of cases convicted to tried out (85·7) was only exceeded in 1919 and 1923, when it stood at 86·9 and 85·9 respectively.

Murder.

54 In spite of communal disturbances, the number of murders fell from 722 to 688. Murders by dacoits fell from 112 to 78. The reluctance of the courts to award the death penalty is still a source of complaint with the police. They point out that in Hardoi only one offender out of fifteen convicted for murder was hanged and in Shahjahanpur nine out of twenty-five. The percentage of cases ending in conviction to those disposed of rose slightly from 66 to 67.

Riots.

55. Riot cases fell from 1,743 to 1,496. There were no political riots. But, acute communal tension produced a crop of riots in the districts of Allahabad, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Bareilly, Moradabad, Pilibhit, Jaunpur, Naini Tal and Kheri, the disturbances in the first three districts being very serious indeed.

During the year a handsome memorial was erected in memory of the twenty-three officers and men who were killed at Chauri Chaura in 1922. His Excellency the Governor unveiled the memorial on February 6, 1924. The police and the public supplied the necessary funds by voluntary subscriptions.

**Grievous
hurt.**

56. Cases under this head rose from 2,783 to 2,942. Shahjahanpur (180), Budaun (138), Meerut and Bareilly (134 each) and Gonda (122) furnish the highest figures.

Dacoity.

57. The total number of cases (including dacoity with murder) reported in 1924 was 1,044 as against 1,275 in the previous year. The percentage of cases convicted to reported and of convicted to disposed of was 25 and 80 respectively, as compared with 21 and 80 in 1923. During the year 1,302

dacoits were convicted and no less than 971 were awaiting trial when the year closed. Holders of gun licences still do practically nothing to defend life and property. It is, however, a good sign that in seventeen districts villagers were found ready to oppose armed dacoits. Cases in which fire-arms were used came mostly from Meerut, Agra and Rohilkhand divisions. There was an alarming increase of such cases in Etah district. Some leniency in the courts is still complained of.

The special dacoity force under Mr. Young, Superintendent of Police, maintained their excellent record in dealing with every aspect of organized gang robbery. This well organized force is now by experience and special training a most valuable asset to the well-being of the province. During the course of operations against the dangerous gang of Bhandus led by Sultana (which had terrorised the submontane districts in the west of the provinces for several years) Mr. Young's force arrested 378 dacoits. Sultana was hanged on June 10, 1924. Altogether there were 481 persons under arrest in 1924, of whom 195 were convicted in that year in various cases including one gang case, five dacoity cases, four murder cases, eighteen cases of receiving stolen property and ninety-five other cases. Eighteen guns, two pistols and property of the approximate value of Rs. 11,500 were recovered during 1924. The work done by the special dacoity force in 1925 has also been valuable in breaking up dacoity gangs all over the province. There are, however, still several gangs against which operations are necessary, and it is to be hoped that the force will not be disbanded until serious dacoity has been definitely checked. Its term was renewed for the year 1925-26 and has since been renewed again for a further year. The district police are also responsible for the improved situation. Mr. Reynolds, Superintendent of Police, Budaun, with the help of his subordinates succeeded in arresting a gang of dacoits headed by Dhanni Kisan which had created a reign of terror in Budaun and Bareilly districts, 44 dacoities being reported from Budaun alone. Munshi Abdul Hai, a sub-inspector of Hardoi district, shot a notorious outlaw who had committed 10 dacoities in Kheri alone in 1924 and was armed with three breech-loading and one muzzle-loading gun at the time of his encounter with the sub-inspector. Anti-dacoity work in

Balraich and Rae Barchi and other districts was similarly successful.

Only in the Rohilkhand and Bundelkhand divisions was an increase reported. Kheri reported more dacoities than any other district, and little progress in checking the crime was made in the north of Shahjahanpur district on the Pilibhit and Kheri borders. Forest areas are extensive here and border on a lengthy frontier with Nepal. Kheri suffered heavily from floods, and communications, always bad, were seriously damaged. There was also a heavy reduction in the police staff. Allahabad and Cawnpore suffered from dacoits whose operations presented some features of the *bhadra log* type—modern breech-loading guns being freely and ruthlessly used. Cruelty was also a feature of the dacoits in Unao.

Robbery.

58. Robbery cases rose from 768 to 783, chiefly in the Gorakhpur, Meerut, Cawnpore, Aligarh and Shahjahanpur districts. Most robberies took place on roads and cart tracks about or after nightfall.

**Burglary
and theft.**

59. Cases both of burglary and of theft (including cattle theft) continued to decrease, having fallen from 47,538 in 1923 to 43,868 in the year under report. But the convictions obtained (6 per cent.) were very low. The position in regard to cattle theft in the western districts is unsatisfactory, although the provincial figures show a decrease from 3,850 to 3,237. Recovery of stolen cattle is not unfrequently cheaper and more certain through the cattle thief or the *Thangdar* than through the police and the courts. The reasons for the present lack of success in dealing with theft and burglary is being carefully investigated, and it is hoped that with the adoption of new methods the position will improve.

Harbouring.

60. The prosecution of those who harbour offenders rose by nearly 40 per cent. The action taken is said to have been distinctly useful, especially in Budaun where it led to the arrest of a dangerous gang of dacoits.

**Counter-
feiting.**

61. Both preventive and detective work was satisfactory. There were 68 cases in all, of which 34 were disposed of during the year—30 ending in conviction. Some interesting cases were reported. In one a man caught in Azamgarh turned out to be a member of a notorious gang of Punjab sonars. He

specialised in counterfeiting Muashidabad rupees wholesale for necklets.

62. There were 3,041 absconders at the beginning of the year. After allowing for arrests and new additions during the year, the number at the end of 1924 was 3,122. Of 949 persons apprehended the police of the districts concerned arrested 427. **Absconded offenders.**

63. The total number of finger print slips on record was 194,233 against 187,871 in 1923. Fresh slips received for record fell from 10,762 to 9,730. The percentage of slips traced was 18.8 as compared with 18.4 in the previous year. **Finger Print Bureau.**

64. There was a slight decline of 23 in the registered population, which stood at 35,300 during the year. The number of criminal tribes' schools (2) and settlements (7) was the same. All the settlements except that at Kahanpur (district Cawnpore) are managed by the Salvation Army. The only tribe which has given evidence of reformation is the Badaks of Shah-jahanpur, who have apparently turned over a new leaf and have been given a certain measure of autonomy in dealing with recalcitrant members of their tribe. **Criminal tribes.**

Prosecutions under the Criminal Tribes Act fell from 2,465 to 2,338 owing partly to the reduction in the strength of rural police which renders efficient supervision more difficult. Sub-inspectors in charge of criminal tribes work in districts have consequently been given the duty of organizing systematic patrols. The percentage of convictions increased.

65. The increased use of special locks and rivets for wagons led to a decrease in the number of true cases of cognizable offences from 6,249 to 5,967. The railway police succeeded in working out an important case in which gold of the value of Rs. 52,000 belonging to the National Bank was stolen from the strong-room at Cawnpore railway station. They were also able to bring to light a series of serious frauds which had been going on for years in the stores department of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway. The record of the railway police in dealing with serious crime was otherwise poor: dacoities rose from 3 to 6, robberies from 12 to 25 and poisoning cases from 3 to 13, and very few of these were successfully worked out. The only case of poisoning which ended in conviction was one in which the accused (a woman) was in the habit **Railway police.**

of marrying her victims, poisoning them and making off with their luggage. In dealing with serious crime the railway police are handicapped by the absence of a central investigating agency, and the introduction of such an agency is one of the features of a new scheme of reorganization. The scheme has been generally approved by the Government, but must wait for fruition until funds are available.

**Criminal
Investigation
department.**

66. The reorganization of the department was completed in 1924. The chief feature of this reorganization was the creation of an efficient Investigation Branch. The Civil Police Committee of 1919 had allotted Intelligence staffs to districts, and the new scheme aims both at training the staffs in advanced and more scientific methods of investigation and at co-ordinating their work with that of the department. With this object the intelligence staffs have been placed under the general control of the Deputy Inspector-General in charge of the Criminal Investigation department. The work of the members of these staffs has been inspected by officers of the department and a curriculum for short courses of specialized training for them has been devised. It is through the agency of these staffs which represent, and are trained by, the department, but form a part of the district force, that the work of the department and of the districts is to be co-ordinated and brought into closer relationship. For training purposes and to enable the department to assist the district police with scientific and legal advice a laboratory and a legal advice section were added and were placed under the control of the Investigation Branch.

Although full effect could not be given to the new scheme till the close of the year, the remarkable success in the investigation of several important cases, which were admittedly beyond the competence of the district police to handle, bear evidence to the value of the changes inaugurated. There has been a notable rise in the number of investigations from 21 to 69, while officers of the Investigation Branch were also associated with the local police in 14 other cases. Among the important cases were the Alliance Bank fraud case, in which a gang of expert forgers of Pondicherry were successfully brought to trial; the Imperial Bank fraud case of Lucknow, in which fraudulent transactions involving losses to the Bank of over

ten and a half lakhs of rupees were brought home to the criminals responsible; the sensational Trunk murder case, in which the body of the victim was found in a trunk in a carriage of the Punjab Mail on its arrival at Howrah and the scanty clues were followed up by an officer of the department till they led him to Delhi and the murderers themselves, and a series of cases of cheating by the note doubling trick, in which an organized gang of swindlers had exploited several districts in this province and had extended their operations as far afield as Hoshangabad. The numerous applications made to the department for assistance both by the public and by the district police, many of which have unfortunately to be refused for want of sufficient staff, bear testimony to the increasing confidence placed in the work of the department.

67. The grant in one year to the force of one C.I.E., eight King's Police Medals and ten Indian titles speaks for itself. Improved conditions of service were responsible for a fall in the numbers of resignations and desertions, and conduct and discipline generally were good, though the number of officers and men dismissed or otherwise punished rose slightly.

Conduct
and dis-
cipline.

It is satisfactory to note a perceptible improvement in the literacy of recruits. The number of literate men of and below the rank of head constable rose from 8,146 to 8,278.

68. Action under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code was more restricted than in 1923. The substitution of the district judge for the district magistrate as appellate court in such cases roused at first some fears that success in prosecution would be more difficult and that the appellate courts would require a standard of evidence which it was almost impossible to attain. In practice these fears have proved illusory, but they tended in the beginning to discourage preventive action. In as much as it has forced prosecuting officers to scrutinise more carefully the strength and nature of the evidence which should be put forward in these cases the change is all to the good.

Preventive
sections
and sur-
veillance.

Persons on "history sheets" numbered 37,255. This figure does not include registered members of criminal tribes, who number over 35,000. Surveillance over this large number has always been difficult. The difficulty has been increased

by the reduction in the number of circle inspectors, the curtailment of the touring of gazetted officers, and most of all by the reduction in the number of chaukidars by more than 44,000—over half the entire force—in two years. It may be necessary to retrace some of the steps taken in the interests of economy if surveillance is to remain effective.

Strength
of police.

69. The sanctioned strength of the regular police was decreased by 38 inspectors, 7 sub-inspectors and 17 head constables, and of the armed police by 137 men. The strength of the mounted police remained the same.

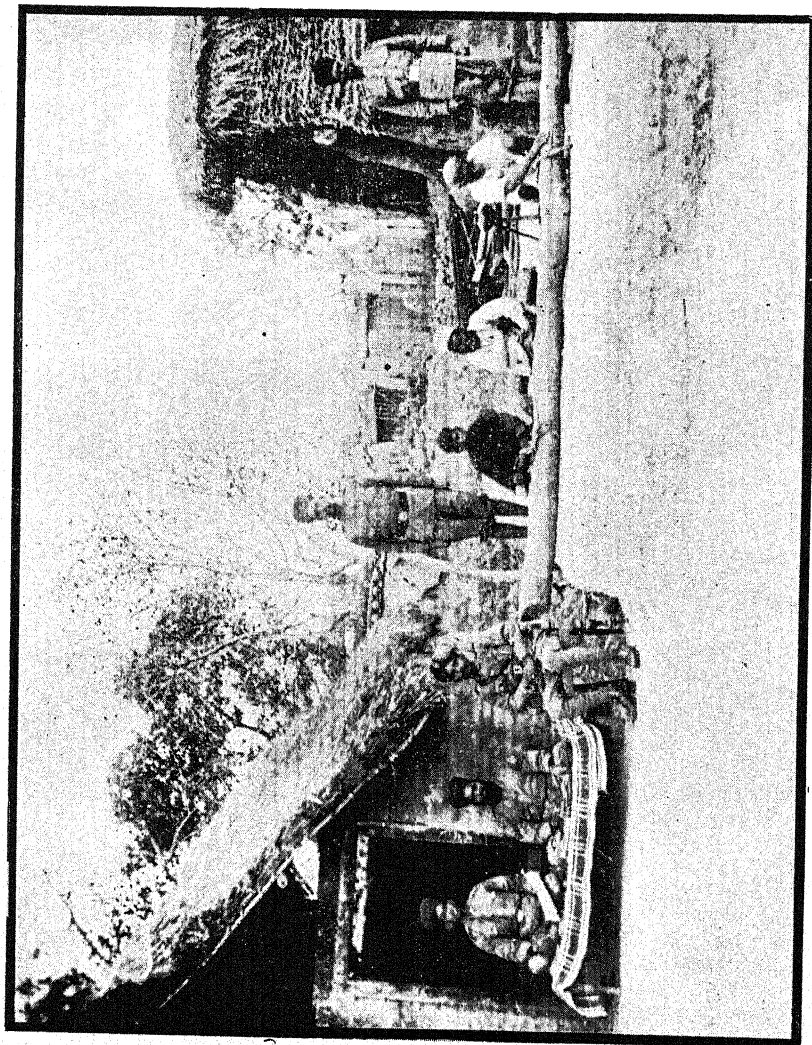
Owing to these reductions leave could not easily be given to members of the force. The difficulty was felt most in the case of the armed police, whose average term of duty is abnormally long. The early stage at which it has been necessary to invoke the aid of the military in times of disturbance demonstrates the drastic nature of the reductions: the police should be able to control all ordinary situations without such help, but in their depleted state this is often impossible. Nevertheless the armed and mounted police acquitted themselves well during the communal disturbances, notwithstanding the many handicaps under which they had to perform their duties.

Cost.

70. In spite of economies there has been a slight increase in total expenditure from Rs. 134.29 to Rs. 134.81 lakhs, owing to the reorganization of the Criminal Investigation department and other less important changes. The province gets very good service for the amount spent. The cost of the police per head of population works out to a little under five annas, while in England it exceeds 10 shillings. The attitude of the Legislative Council towards police expenditure is not sympathetic, though no important demand has been refused if the necessity for it is fully explained.

Buildings.

71. Rupees 7.7 lakhs were spent under this head. Major works absorbed 4.1 lakhs, the balance being utilized on repairs and improvements to existing buildings. Eight major and several minor works were undertaken. The conditions of police buildings has long been unsatisfactory; a striking example is afforded by the condition of the Mithauli police station (district Kheri) where (as the picture facing this page shows) prisoners had to be shackled to a log of wood for want of a



Police station Mithauli, district Kheri, the ruins of the original police station
can be seen in the back ground.

proper lock-up. The ordinary financial resources of the province cannot provide enough money even to replace those buildings which have entirely collapsed or are beyond repair and to keep existing buildings in repair. It has accordingly been decided to raise a loan of a crore of rupees and to utilize it on a comprehensive building programme spread over seven years. The gain not only to the comfort but also to the health of the force will be great: at present the percentage of admissions into hospital is abnormally high.

72. The school is being reorganized and improved. The cadet course has been extended from 11 to 17 months. More time is being given to the practical training of gazetted officers. Special courses for district and specialist officers are being instituted, and training is given in up-to-date methods of detection and prevention of crime. Recruits and remounts of the mounted police will now be trained at the schools. All ranks of Government Railway Police are now given practical training in the working of railways.

Police
Training
School.

73. The neighbouring States continued to give generous help to the provincial police. The Rampur State in particular has given valuable assistance in the arrest of absconding offenders who had taken refuge in the State.

Relations
with
Indian
States.

14. Criminal Justice.

(See "*Criminal Statements*" of the Allahabad High Court and the "*Note on the Administration of Criminal Justice*" in Oudh for the year ending December 31, 1924).

AGRA PROVINCE.

74. The number of sessions divisions (19) was the same as in the previous year. Besides permanent additional sessions judges, temporary additional judges worked for varying periods in seven districts.

Judicial
staff.

75. There was again a rise in the total number of offences reported (including those pending from previous year) under the Indian Penal Code from 107,932 to 108,461 and also in the number of cases reported as true, from 76,440 to 77,031.

Number
of trials.

— The number of cases brought to trial increased by 1,254 to 67,971 and of persons under trial from 171,719 to 175,246. The figures of the courts of sessions indicate that as in the previous year there has been little rise in the more serious forms of crime. The rise is chiefly confined to cases of criminal force and assault and of criminal breach of trust and mischief. The extension in the number and powers of honorary magistrates to some extent explains a readiness to resort to the courts for the settlement of petty quarrels and disputes, persons tried by honorary magistrates being about half of those brought to trial throughout the province. *Panchayats* deal with a number of petty offences, and the system is being extended: but they are still new, and possibly do not at present command the full confidence of the people. This may probably account for the fact that the number of cases reported to courts has not been reduced.

The continued decline in offences against the State points to more settled political conditions. Figures relating to contempt of the lawful authority of public servants are nearly the same as in the previous year. This form of crime is specially marked in certain districts: one of these districts however attributes the increase to cases under section 174, Indian Penal Code, "against persons who did not attend the courts after the service of summonses, particularly in respect of citations, for payment of land revenue and canal dues." Communal tension is responsible for a larger number of offences against the public tranquillity. Offences against public health and safety have again increased.

The number of offences under special and local laws again rose—from 82,526 to 89,844—thus continuing the course of the last five years. Cases under the Excise and Forest Acts have risen by 180 and 76 respectively. There were also more prosecutions for cruelty to animals. The most striking figures however in this class of case occur in cases under the Town Areas Act, which rose from 803 to 1,413.

Duration
and results
of trials.

76. The average duration in all courts was ten days, the same as in the previous year. But the number of cases pending over six weeks rose from 1,984 to 2,230. The change in the law in regard to the cross-examination of prosecution witnesses after the framing of a charge renders it more difficult for the magistrates to avoid the detention of witnesses. The

new provision in the Criminal Procedure Code compelling the adjournment of a case as soon as an application for transfer is made also tends to prolong duration. The number of witnesses detained more than two days in magisterial courts rose by about 2,500. The number could be curtailed in both sessions and magisterial courts if the presiding officers could estimate more exactly the number of witnesses whom they could handle in one day. The number of witnesses examined rose from 251,056 to 263,136. The number of witnesses summoned but not examined is also unfortunately very large. Courts could undoubtedly do more than at present to avoid the summoning both of witnesses and of accused unnecessarily. A remarkable example of the abuse of processes of law is furnished by applications for binding over persons to keep the peace; less than a third of those against whom notices are issued were ultimately bound over. The number of complainants ordered to pay compensation to persons subjected to false and frivolous complaints continues to be small, though there has been a rise from 375 to 474. The amount of compensation paid increased from Rs. 9,178 to Rs. 11,814. The percentage of persons convicted to those brought to trial rose by one point to 41 in magisterial courts but fell from 63 to 61 in sessions courts. Communal riots are mainly responsible for the slight rise in the number of persons committed to sessions.

77. Out of 182 capital sentences 121 were confirmed by the High Court. Thirty persons were released and the sentences of 24 were modified. Persons sentenced to transportation for life numbered 341 as compared with 436 in the previous year. The number of persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment fell from 16,631 to 15,412—282 receiving sentences of more than seven years, as against 425 in the previous year. Solitary confinement was added to rigorous imprisonment, as in the previous year, in 11 per cent. of cases. Sentences of whipping again decreased from 1,194 to 890. Short-term sentences of fifteen days and under show a satisfactory decline. The rise in the number of persons released on probation of good conduct was even more marked than in the previous year, the number increasing from 679 to 1,791. This is due to the recent change in the law which gives greater power to the courts to release on probation.

Punish-
ments.

Appeals.

78. The total number of appellants increased from 19,658 to 21,493. Appeals in the courts of district magistrates decreased, while those in sessions courts showed a considerable rise. The number of persons who appealed to the High Court fell from 2,992 to 2,958.

Jury system.

79. Ninety-nine persons were tried with the aid of a jury, as against 73 in the previous year. The jury system is reported to have failed in Benares; but has nonetheless been extended to Cawnpore and Bareilly.

ODDH.

Judicial staff.

80. The number of sessions judges, additional sessions judges, sessions and subordinate judges and subordinate judges exercising the powers of assistant sessions judges stood at 6, 4, 2 and 8 respectively. The regular judicial staff was strengthened by the temporary appointment of two special sessions judges and two sessions and subordinate judges.

Number of trials.

81. The number of offences reported continued to fall, having dropped by 3 per cent. to 56,271 in the year under report. While the less serious offences against the person and against property declined, major offences against life increased by 79 and robbery and dacoity by 14, indicating that the spirit of lawlessness engendered by revolutionary movements of previous years has not yet subsided. Murders totalled 478—the highest figure recorded during the last ten years—Hardoi continuing to account for the largest number of cases. Only 88 capital sentences were passed. Courts are still unduly lenient in dealing with murder and dacoity. There was an increase of 172 cases of contempt of lawful authority of public servants. Offences against the public tranquillity, religion and trade and property marks also increased. Cases of theft fell from 3,216 to 2,865. Offences under municipal and local laws rose by 6 per cent. Excise crime increased, chiefly among the Pasis who cannot afford to pay the high price of Government liquor, and who therefore distil it themselves.

Duration and results of trials.

82. The disposal of work was slow in the sessions courts. The average duration of trials was 58 days, which is the highest figure yet recorded. This is largely explained by the number of big and intricate cases which were tried during the year.

The number of persons for trial fell from 103,456 to 95,629. The number of witnesses examined declined by 2

per cent. The number of persons convicted for lodging false and frivolous complaints rose slightly from 121 to 150. Unfortunately many subordinate magistrates do not pay sufficient attention to the possibility of dismissing a large number of complaint cases before summoning the accused. Honorary magistrates disposed of more than half the criminal cases in Oudh. Their work is chiefly concerned with petty offences.

83. Death sentences were passed on 88 persons. Fifty-two of these sentences were confirmed. Seventeen persons were set free, while 13 were sentenced to transportation for life and 7 to imprisonment. Persons sentenced to transportation for life declined from 140 to 116, while persons sentenced to imprisonment exceeding seven years increased from 98 to 137. The number of short-term sentences does not unfortunately show any appreciable reduction. The number of persons sentenced to whipping was the lowest so far recorded, being less than half of the previous year. Three hundred and eighty persons were released on probation for good conduct as against 207 in the previous year. **Punishments.**

84. The number of appeals before magistrates fell from 1,215 to 842 and before sessions courts they increased from 1,461 to 1,673. Appeals in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner numbered 844. **Appeals.**

15. Prisons.

(See the report on the condition and management of the jails for the year ending December 31, 1924.)

85. The number of prisoners admitted on conviction shows a considerable fall from 34,071 in 1922 to 29,578 in 1923 and to 26,867 in 1924. The number of female prisoners during the year was 548, as against 717 in 1923, while the annual average in the years 1900—1919 was over 1,500. The daily average population fell from 27,949 to 27,196. The decline is the more remarkable inasmuch as convicts are no longer transported to the Andamans, but are confined in jail. The reduction is due to easier times both economically and politically, to the decline of 2,711 in the number of admissions and to the extension of the benefit of the remission system to prisoners. **Jail population.**

undergoing sentences between six months and one year. Classification of the prisoners shows that the courts are taking full advantage of the revised provisions of section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, especially in respect of youthful offenders. The percentage of reduction in the number of convicts under 16 years of age was 33, between 16 and 18 years of age 18, between 19 and 21 years 11, between 22 and 30 years 8, between 31 and 40 years 4, between 40 and 60 years 14 and above 60 years 11. The reduction was thus greatest among youthful and elderly offenders. The number of habitual offenders fell from 26.18 to 26.00 per cent. The figures of illiteracy vary but slightly, only 3.7 per cent. of the convicts newly admitted being literate. The number of civil prisoners (imprisoned debtors) during the year was 1,428.

**Employ-
ment.**

86. Ten thousand five hundred and fifty-six prisoners were employed on jail manufacture as against 11,460 in the previous year. The decline is due to the fall in jail population and to the increase in the number of prisoners undergoing simple imprisonment. Fictitious profits previously shown on articles manufactured for use in jails were eliminated. Sales to the public increased from Rs. 2.72 lakhs to Rs. 2.78 lakhs and sales to Government departments from Rs. 1.01 lakhs to Rs. 1.31 lakhs.

A committee was appointed to consider the promotion and improvement of jail industries. As the result of their recommendations, articles for which there is a large Government demand are now made in selected jails. The articles manufactured under the new scheme have given satisfaction

Health.

87. The health of the jail population continued satisfactory. The death-rate showed a further fall from 13.2 to 11.1 per thousand. There was no epidemic disease. As usual tuberculosis, pneumonia and dysentery were the diseases mainly responsible for deaths. Of prisoners discharged during the year, 64.65 per cent. gained in weight (as compared with 62.72 in the previous year) and 7.61 per cent. lost weight (as against 8.21).

As in the previous year leper prisoners were segregated at Rae Bareilly. Thirty such prisoners were treated by Dr. E. Muir's method with very satisfactory results.

Fourteen prisoners escaped as compared with 8 in the previous year. Of these, 11 escaped from inside the jails, including 6 long-term prisoners from the Agra Central Prison. The subordinate jail officers and convict warders responsible were suitably punished. Eight of the 14 prisoners who escaped were recaptured in addition to four who had escaped in previous years.

88. Thirteen thousand two hundred and ninety-three prisoners were released under the remission rules, against 10,651 in 1923. Only 10 prisoners failed through bad behaviour to secure remission. The total number of offences committed by convicts decreased by 4,381. There were 77 cases of assault, mutiny and escape compared with 87 in 1923 and 130 in 1922. This improvement in discipline is in a large measure due to the decline of the revolutionary movement which encouraged a spirit of lawlessness and insubordination. The progressively humane policy in dealing with prisoners is also entitled to share in the results. Complaints, however, have been received of the undesirable effects of the change in the law which awards simple instead of rigorous imprisonment for failure to give security under section 109, Criminal Procedure Code. This has now been rectified by recent legislation.

Conduct
and
discipline.

89. The number of juvenile prisoners under 16 years of age sent to jails was 59 as compared with 89 in the previous year. The number of juvenile and adolescent prisoners admitted as also the daily average exceeds 2,000. The majority serve their sentences in the ordinary jails where they are kept apart from adult prisoners. It is unfortunately not possible owing to the financial stringency to provide separate jails for the different classes of juvenile prisoners. Of casual prisoners under 21 years of age, 243 were sent to the Bareilly Juvenile Jail. Two hundred and twenty-five juvenile prisoners were released from this institution.

Juvenile
prisoners.

90. The total expenditure fell from Rs. 27.89 lakhs to Rs. 23.43 lakhs, and the cost per head from Rs. 99 to Rs. 86. The problem of retrenchment has received very careful attention in the jails.

Expen-
diture.

91. Unfortunately the public are still apathetic regarding the future of discharged prisoners. The Aman Sabha of Benares, which had previously interested itself in the subject of

Jail
reforms.

finding employment for them, was dissolved. A new society designed to assist discharged prisoners has been started at Muttra, but it is too early yet to judge it by results. A large number of changes and reforms were effected during the year, as the result of the recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee of 1919. Improvements in prisoners' clothing, in the arrangements for ensuring greater privacy and in the restricted use of whipping as a jail punishment may be mentioned. The revision of the Jail Manual has been taken in hand, and it is hoped that any provisions relating to punishments and discipline which are unnecessarily harsh will be removed. New rules were framed in May 1925 regulating appointments to the executive branch of the Jail department. The pay of that branch has also been revised.

16. Civil Justice.

(See separate reports for Agra, Oudh and Kumaun on Civil Justice for the year ending December 31, 1924.)

AGRA PROVINCE.

Judicial staff.

92. During the year the regular staff was augmented by the appointment of six temporary judges. In addition to these the courts of four munsifs were converted into courts of additional subordinate judges for varying periods.

The growing pressure of civil litigation has been considerably relieved from April 1, 1924, by the addition to the cadre of 5 subordinate judges and 22 munsifs. The condition of the civil court buildings as also the accommodation provided in several districts are unsatisfactory: but progress depends on the amount of money available, which is small. A new munsif's court at Ghaziabad (Meerut district) was under construction, the expenditure being Rs. 49,795 against an estimate of Rs. 81,055. Certain additions to and alterations in the judge's court at Allahabad were carried out during the year, Rs. 22,451 being spent against an estimate of Rs. 28,995. The work is in progress. The reroofing of the judge's residence at Fyzabad was commenced. The estimate is Rs. 11,211.

Original suits.

93. The total number of suits instituted during the year was the highest on record, being 159,989 as against 147,466

of the previous year, and exceeded by 1,500 the previous record of 1920. The rise has been greatest in suits of small value, which rose from 70,201 to 80,527. The cases in munsif's courts rose by 2,638 while in subordinate judges' courts they fell from 8,087 to 7,077 and in district judges' courts from 193 to 51. The large increase in small cause court cases is explained chiefly by the increased number of those courts since 1924. This has resulted in a quicker disposal of suits and in the filing of cases in larger numbers. Disposals, however, outpaced new institutions, the total of the former exceeding the previous year's figures by 12,963. The repeal of the temporary Court Fees Act on April 30, 1924, is also to some extent responsible for the rise in institutions.

There was a slight decrease in the average duration of contested suits in the courts of district judges from 177 to 164 days, of subordinate judges from 235 to 233 and of munsifs from 116 to 112. There was also a decline in the duration of uncontested suits except in the courts of munsifs. There was a heavy fall—due to a few cases of exceptionally high value having been instituted in the previous year in the courts of subordinate judges—in the total value of suits, which fell from Rs. 801.83 lakhs to Rs. 709.02 lakhs.

94. The number of appeals rose from 14,687 to 15,303. Appeals. But disposal was speedier and the pending file was reduced by 439 and the number of appeals pending for over three months by 612. The average duration of appeals fell from 212 to 172 days.

95. Appeals to the High Court rose from 5,533 to 6,118. High Court. The pending file increased by 294 to 3,738.

96. Applications increased from 154,499 to 157,672. Dis- Execution of decrees. posals here again were promptly effected. The percentage of fructuous applications rose by two points to 47.

97. The number of village munsif's court working during the year was reduced by 2 to 96, the total number of village munsifs being now 160. The number of cases decided increased from 7,865 to 8,453. The total value of suits instituted rose by more than Rs. 10,000. One additional honorary munsif raised the number to 36. The cases decided were 9,169, being 296 in excess of the previous year. Honorary courts.

General.

98. The annual vacation of the civil courts has lately fallen in May and June. It is now proposed to revert to September and October.

ODDH.

Judicial
staff.

99. The regular staff was strengthened, as in the previous year, by the temporary appointment of extra officers—three additional district judges (for the whole year) and one sessions and subordinate judge (for three months only) having being so appointed.

Original
suits.

100. The number of suits instituted rose from 66,689 to 68,063. Of these, 20,396 were regular and 47,667 small cause court suits as against 24,056 and 42,633 of the previous year. As in Agra, the increase in the judicial cadre and the more liberal conferment of small cause court powers led to a more rapid disposal of cases. There was a marked decline in suits relating to immovable property, and a drop in the total value of suits by nearly 6 per cent from Rs. 323.3 lakhs to Rs. 303.3 lakhs.

The number of cases disposed of during the year rose from 69,408 to 70,075. The duration of contested suits also rose slightly from 90 to 92 days and of uncontested suits from 51 to 52 days.

Appeals.

101. Appeals totalled 1,922 against 1,977. The additional subordinate judges rendered great help in disposing of appeals, the pending file at the close of the year being reduced from 1,530 to 901.

Judicial
Commissioner's
Court.

102. There was a large increase, from 493 to 693, in the number of appeals instituted. There was also a large increase in criminal work. Hence only 99 first civil appeals were decided as against 134 in the previous year. On the other hand 336 second civil appeals were disposed of as against 267 in 1923.

Execution
of decrees.

103. Applications increased from 61,204 to 62,241. The percentage of fructuous applications was about the same as in the previous year. Serious delays, however, occasionally occurred in the proceedings of the sale officer.

Honorary
courts.

104. There were 57 honorary munsifs, one more than in the previous year. Suits decided numbered 6,708. The number of village munsifs was 19, the steady decline being due

to the extension of the village panchayat system. The village munsifs decided 1,137 suits.

KUMAUN.

105. The number of suits fell from 7,192 to 7,153. Suits. Garhwal records a decrease of 348 cases, probably the result of the interruption of communications caused by the floods. The total value of the suits, however, increased from Rs. 10 45 lakhs to Rs. 13 62 lakhs. Cases pending at the end of the year numbered 1,221 as against 1,196. The average duration of contested cases fell from 112 67 to 109 19 days. The average duration of uncontested cases declined only slightly from 56 9 to 56 18 days. It will thus be seen that conditions of the year under report were much the same as in the previous year.

106. Appeals numbered 316 as against 352 in the Appeals. previous year. Two hundred and twenty-two appeals were disposed of by the Deputy Commissioner and 33 by the Commissioner. The latter figure is 39 less than the 1923 figure: this is due to frequent changes of officers. The average duration of appeals has been reduced from 85 7 to 78 23 days.

107. The number of applications rose from 3,773 to Execution of decrees. 4,506. Forty-three per cent of the applications were infructuous.

17. Registration.

(See note on the Administration of the Registration department for the year ending December 31, 1924.)

108. There was a fall in the number of documents registered from 269,615 to 258,699. Receipts consequently declined from Rs. 12 46 lakhs to Rs 12 33 lakhs. One-third of the total decrease relates to optional registrations of movable property. The decline in compulsory registrations is most marked under "mortgages" and less conspicuously under "deeds of gift" and of "sale or exchange" of less than Rs 100 in value. On the other hand, leases show an appreciable rise. The fall in the number of registered documents is chiefly due to agricultural prosperity and good seasons in 1924. Registration.

Financial.

109. Receipts declined by Rs 13,000. Expenditure rose by Rs. 4,970 to Rs. 4.52 lakhs. The latter in due to special reasons of minor importance.

One registration office was abolished and seven were placed under tahsildars. The recruitment of sub-registrars, previously in abeyance for reasons of economy, was reopened and four candidates were selected.

Funds were allotted in seven districts for the construction, extension and alterations of registration offices.

General.

110. There were no prosecutions under the Registration Act. The number of inspections fell from 590 to 450. There was a falling off in inspections by district registrars, while the floods of September, 1924, prevented revenue officers from giving Registration offices the usual amount of attention. One of the departmental inspectors also was handicapped by ill-health.

18. District boards.

(See the review of the working of district boards for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

General.

111. By the end of 1924 the new non-official boards had completed their second year of life. A remarkable falling off in the interest shown by members in their work manifested itself. Abortive meetings increased by 50 per cent. from 71 to 106 and the average percentage of attendance fell from 60 to 50.56, the fall being shared by all districts except seven. No definite explanation of the slackened interest is forthcoming: possibly it is simply that the novelty has worn off, and the initial intrigues have run their course. The average attendance for municipal boards is also about 50 per cent. and members of district boards have usually further to go in order to attend meetings.

The tahsil committees did little. Members were generally disinclined, after attending meetings of the board and the departmental committees at headquarters, to meet again at the tahsil. The only remedy for this state of things seems to lie in decentralization, the delegation of definite powers to the committees, and in particular the grant of some measure of

financial control. The committees could do much useful work in supervising and inspecting rural institutions, especially in large districts, where it is difficult to exercise adequate control from headquarters.

112. The total income rose by Rs. 5.13 lakhs to Rs. 178.68 lakhs. There was an increase of Rs. 1.14 lakhs in Government grants, due chiefly to savings resulting from the abolition of local travelling dispensaries. The resources of the boards themselves also expanded, yielding Rs. 4 lakhs more than in the previous year. The chief item responsible for the increase was the sum of Rs. 2.72 lakhs under local rates, of which, however, Rs. 1.68 lakhs represented arrears of the previous year collected in the year under report. New pounds and enhanced rates of fines on impounded cattle accounted for a rise in income of Rs. .62 lakh, while higher toll rates added about Rs. .81 lakh to receipts from ferries. There was also an increase of Rs. .15 lakh from fees in middle schools. But this was more than counterbalanced by a fall of Rs. .19 lakh from primary school fees. The floods of September, 1924 also caused a loss of about Rs. .52 lakh, as fairs in Agra and Budaun could not be held. A further loss was caused by the sale of securities, owing to which the income from interest shrank by Rs. .16 lakh.

113. Expenditure fell by Rs. 2.79 lakhs to Rs. 177.89 lakhs. There was a drop of Rs. 5.53 lakhs in charges under "Civil Works" due, as in the previous year, to diminished expenditure on original buildings and communications. There were slight increases under "General Administration" and "Education." The total charges under "Medical," however, rose by Rs. 1.08 lakhs, of which about one-fifth was devoted to medical relief and the rest to the district health schemes introduced in Fyzabad and Gonda, to measures for combating epidemics, and to the construction and improvement of wells.

114. Financial stability is not yet in sight. The closing balances once more fell from Rs. 37.68 lakhs to Rs. 36.27 lakhs. Many boards are able to balance income and expenditure only by the starvation of essential services, especially roads and dispensaries; and there is a tendency to consume accumulated balances on objects for which they were not

intended. The only remedy for this unsatisfactory state of affairs is the imposition of fresh taxation. There is ample scope for this. The present incidence of taxation is low, being only 2 annas and 9 pies per head of population. Without expanded resources boards will find it difficult to maintain existing services efficiently, still more to adopt much-needed schemes of rural development in the sphere of education, medical relief, sanitation and communications.

Education.

115. The number of district board schools rose from 14,184 to 14,601 and of scholars from 805,435 to 821,612. The subject of rural education receives much attention both in the Legislative Council and from the Government. The present position in regard to the various problems of primary education has been explained in the section dealing with education. Here it will be sufficient to indicate some of the efforts made to promote vernacular education. A Board of Vernacular Education was constituted to formulate a development policy and to suggest measures for co-ordinating vernacular and English education. It is hoped that schemes designed to further vernacular education, especially in regard to the construction and equipment of new school buildings, will receive an impetus under arrangements recently sanctioned, by which the savings accruing to boards from their recurring allotments for vernacular education will not be resumed by Government. Preliminary steps were taken to open agricultural classes in Vernacular Middle Schools by providing for the training of teachers at the Agricultural School, Bulandshahr. Ten district boards have taken advantage of this arrangement. Since the close of the year the ten teachers completed their course and the teaching of agriculture has now begun in one Middle Vernacular School in each of the seven districts of Cawnpore, Kheri, Etah, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Azamgarh and Meerut. Government have also decided, since the close of the year, to introduce manual training in selected Middle Vernacular Schools. Fifteen schools have been selected for the introduction of the scheme, and the district boards concerned have been given funds for the erection of workshops and their equipment. Fifteen teachers are now undergoing a special course in manual training at the Training College, Lucknow. A start was made

in the year with the scheme for opening libraries in Vernacular Middle Schools, and grants for this purpose were given to the boards of Lucknow, Allahabad and Cawnpore.

116. Lack of funds has hitherto forbidden much expansion of medical relief measures in rural areas. Government have now offered to pay half of both recurring and non-recurring charges of new dispensaries, provided that the boards pay or arrange for the other half. Government have also devised a scheme to encourage medical practitioners to settle down in rural areas. For some years to come the Government will pay their subsistence allowances varying according to their medical qualifications on condition that the boards undertake to give a grant for medicine and assume all liability if the scheme is successful.

Medical
and Public
Health
Services.

Expenditure on sanitary works for rural areas was, as in the previous year, small. At places wells were constructed or repaired or were provided with pumps. One board drew up a scheme for improving the water supply in places where depressed classes are not allowed to draw water from wells used by the higher castes. Such sporadic improvements even if multiplied a hundredfold would not solve the problem of improving the health of the rural population. The real requirement is the education of the people in all matters affecting their health. This is the chief aim of the district health scheme which was in force in five districts and has since been extended to twelve more. A great deal remains still to be learnt of the best methods for the staff to employ.

117. The transfer of metalled roads from the Public Works department to district boards was completed in every district save two. The boards have come into an onerous legacy: the condition of the roads was bad enough before they were transferred to the boards and is now fast deteriorating. The floods of September, 1924 made matters worse. The present position cannot be viewed with equanimity; good roads are essential to the prosperity of the countryside. Bad roads increase the cost of transport and handicap local trade; but no solution of the difficulty has yet been found.

Communi-
cations.

19. Municipal Boards.

(See the review on the working of municipal boards for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

General.

118. The year's work was on the whole satisfactory. The financial position of boards improved: closing balances were larger and indebtedness decreased. Something, though not enough, was done to improve the roads. Substantial progress was made in education, and compulsory primary education is in force in several cities. Greater interest in health problems has led to a decrease in infantile mortality even in Cawnpore. Attendance improved though the number of abortive meetings rose from 131 to 186. It must, however, be admitted that municipal boards were too often dominated by communal bias or local intrigue: and where this happened superior supervision was slack and efficiency suffered, whilst more obvious abuses were not infrequent. But this condition is not universal, and there is no lack of members who strive to perform their duties honestly and with a due sense of responsibility.

Income.

119. The total income rose by Rs. 5·56 lakhs to Rs. 148·93 lakhs. This is the more satisfactory as Government grants decreased from Rs. 10·8 lakhs to Rs. 8·23 lakhs, and the actual increase from the boards' own resources was Rs. 8·20 lakhs. Loans fell from Rs. 6·02 lakhs to Rs. 5·55 lakhs. A less satisfactory point is that sale-proceeds of securities rose from Rs. '67 lakh to Rs. 1·54 lakhs.

(A) From taxation

The income from rates and taxes has been growing steadily and amounted to Rs. 102·54 lakhs, compared with Rs. 97·27 lakhs in the previous year. The chief increases were Rs. 1·59 lakhs under octroi, Rs. 1·41 lakhs under passenger tax (the greater part of which accrued to Allahabad), Rs. '96 lakh under water rate, Rs. '72 lakh under terminal toll and Rs. '48 lakh under house tax. The tax on circumstances and property is still unpopular and receipts fell by Rs. '43 lakh. Two municipalities replaced it by octroi during the year. Its assessment presents difficulties and is uneven, while octroi, being indirect, is less felt. But even octroi is not free from difficulties; smuggling is not uncommon, and abuses creep in in connexion with refunds. This is exemplified by the figures of refunds. In Lucknow

refunds now come to nearly 14 per cent. of the amount collected; in Bareilly they amount to 35 per cent. In Aligarh refunds rose to Rs. 59,000 as compared with the decennial average of Rs. 32,000. The system has inherent defects, and though strict supervision can minimise them, it cannot entirely remove them.

One municipality introduced a terminal toll and tax bringing the number of boards which use this form of tax to 19. Several others hope to introduce it in the near future.

Out of the total income of Rs. 148.93 lakhs, Rs. 46.30 (B) from other sources. lakhs came from sources other than taxation. The income under this head showed a net rise of Rs. 29 lakh over the figures of the previous year. Decreases amounted to Rs. 2.79 lakhs (2.64 under grants and contributions and .15 under miscellaneous receipts), but were more than made good by the increases of Rs. 2.95 lakhs under municipal property and Rs. .13 lakh under special acts. Management of nazul lands was as usual an important source of income.

120. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 139.71 lakhs. There was a welcome rise in the charges incurred on roads (2.20), on capital outlay on drainage (1.96), and on public instruction (1.66). The most important fall was in capital outlay on water supply works, which fell by Rs. 4.96 lakhs. As before, expenditure was heaviest on conservancy, which accounted for 16 per cent. of the total expenditure. Next came maintenance of roads (10 per cent.) and public instruction (9 per cent.). Expenditure on medical relief was comparatively small and worked out to a little over 1 per cent. Expenditure.

121. The improvement in the financial position of municipalities, which was noticed in last year's report, was maintained in 1924. Financial position. Indebtedness decreased from Rs. 120.83 lakhs to Rs. 119.90 lakhs. Invested funds increased from Rs. 21.33 lakhs to Rs. 29.67 lakhs and closing balances from Rs. 34.65 lakhs to Rs. 35.27 lakhs.

The finances of the larger municipalities were generally sound, though some of them attained financial equilibrium only by the starvation of essential services. Several municipalities find it difficult to maintain these services in a fair

state of efficiency if they are to balance income and expenditure. In fact, as things are at present, this is almost impossible without a permanent increase in income. The easiest method of securing this is to revise the octroi schedules, and this was done in some municipalities during the year.

A less simple method is to secure more economical administration, and the audit report shows the need of greater efforts in this direction. Wastage of public money is facilitated by the neglect to keep proper accounts. Often indeed the smaller municipalities were more successful than the larger ones in the maintenance of accounts. Fortunately embezzlements were few and occurred only in Allahabad, Cawnpore, Bareilly and Pilibhit. In Cawnpore the loss due to systematic fraud amounted to Rs. 70,000. On the other hand certain facts brought to light at the audit in Benares resulted in a recovery of nearly Rs. 10,000.

Greater attention to the collection of taxes would also be profitable. In the larger municipalities the arrears are considerable. The unpopularity of direct taxes makes them difficult to collect even in normal times, and when, for instance, the water supply is frequently interrupted, objections are naturally more numerous.

**Municipal
services:
Roads.**

122. All divisions except Gorakhpur spent more money on roads than in the previous year. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 12.01 lakhs to Rs. 14.21 lakhs, Rs. .82 lakh being spent on the maintenance of roads as compared with Rs. .46 lakh in the previous year. But the condition of roads in many towns is still bad. The rate-payer is growing accustomed to bad roads, and does not trouble to make an effective protest; consequently boards have little inducement to devote greater attention to this important matter.

**Water
supply.**

123. The project for a water supply system at Fyzabad was completed and a tube well was successfully sunk at Firozabad. The reorganization of the water-works at Benares, Allahabad and Cawnpore made little progress; much valuable time was spent in discussing what agency should carry out the work. On the other hand good progress was made with the scheme to supplement the Dehra Dun supply by tapping the springs at Baldi, and the Bilhari pumping station in Mussoorie was nearly completed. Proposals for

the construction of water-works in Hathras, Brindaban and Unao were under consideration.

Financially, however, there is much room for improvement. The water-works at Allahabad, Lucknow, Cawnpore and Naini Tal pay their way. the rest are run at a loss, though the total deficit was less than in the previous year. The question of the cost of water was examined and it was discovered that the incidence of the cost is not uniformly distributed among the various classes of consumers. In the majority of towns the consumers who take water by measurement pay more than their share, while those who get water through unmetered connections pay less than its cost price.

124. Electricity is growing in favour with municipalities **Lighting.** as a source both of lighting and of power. It is recognized that it can lessen the running costs of water-works, and it should even relieve boards to some extent of the difficulty of supervising them. Practically all the leading cities are anxious to instal electricity. But there is the usual difficulty of finance: very few boards are in a position to put in their own installation. The difficulty has been largely overcome by licensing private companies. In this way the Agra scheme has already been completed and a licence has been given for Benares. A similar scheme for Aligarh is under consideration. Schemes for Muttra and Hardwar are also being worked out.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

20. Agricultural produce.

(See Season and Crop report for the year ending June 30, 1925.)

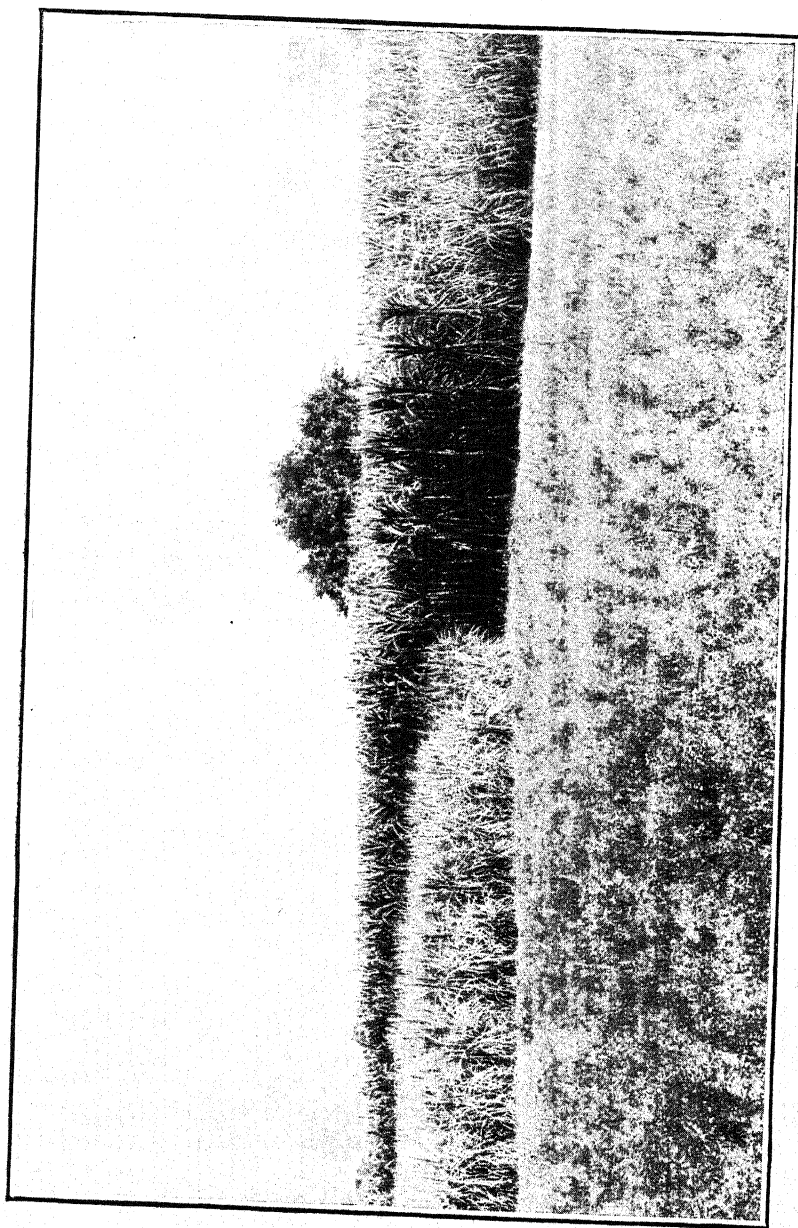
Character
of the year.

125. A brief account of the rainfall of the year and of its general effects upon the crops has been given in Chapter I. As in the preceding two years, the weather was more favourable to the *rabi* (spring) than to the *kharif* (autumn) crops. Too little rain in the early stages of the monsoon and too much at the end of it seriously affected the *kharif*, even when the crops were not entirely swept away by the floods of September. The floods on the other hand served the *rabi* well. In some places the land remained water-logged, but in general *rabi* sowings were easy and plentiful, and so much moisture remained in the soil that the comparative failure of the winter rains made little material difference to the crops. In February, however, rust made its appearance and most districts suffered also from frost and the *rabi* consequently did not fulfil expectations.

Cultivated
area.

126. The cultivated area was 1·5 per cent. less than in the previous year and 1·6 less than the normal. The *kharif* area, which was 6·3 per cent. less than the previous year's and 10·5 per cent. less than the normal, was the lowest of the last 12 years. But the *rabi* area exceeded the normal by 6·6 per cent., being equal to the normal in Oudh and exceeding the normal by 9 per cent. in Agra. A deficiency in early rice was more than made good by an increase in the area under late rice. The sugarcane area decreased by 16·4 per cent. The area under cotton rose by 62 per cent. Indigo dropped by 39 per cent.

The area under all the principal spring crops rose, except rapeseed (which declined from 112 per cent. of the normal in the previous year to 97 per cent.) and poppy (from 36 per cent. to 32 per cent.). Linseed rose from 69 to 88 per cent., gram from 111 to 120 per cent. and wheat from 104 to 107.



Java and indigenous sugarcane in cultivators' fields—Hardoi district

127. The yield of cotton, sugarcane and *juar* showed a marked decline. Stated in terms of a normal yield of 100 for each crop, the outturn of cotton dropped from 80 to 65, of sugarcane from 95 to 70 and of *juar* from 90 to 75. Taken as a whole, the season was more favourable both to the early and late varieties of rice than the preceding year. Among spring crops the yield of opium rose from 95 to 100. In spite of the increased area the outturn of other crops decreased, the decline being most marked in the case of gram (from 100 to 80), barley (95 to 85) and wheat (90 to 75). This was chiefly due to rust and frost, both of which caused serious damage to the crops in February.

128. The prices of food-grains ruled high. They rose sharply in July, 1924 on account of the late arrival of the monsoon. When the new *kharif* grains came into the market prices showed a tendency to fall in November and December, but as the prospects of a normal *rabi* declined, prices rose again until the *rabi* crop was reaped (April, 1925), when as usual they fell again. The prices of wheat, barley and grain, which averaged 8½, 12½ and 13 seers in June, 1924, were 6¾, 9½ and 10½ seers in June, 1925.

21. Irrigation.

(See report of the Irrigation branch of the Public Works department for the year ending March 31, 1925, and also Season and Crop report for the year ending June 30, 1925.)

129 The province possesses vast natural resources for irrigation in its rivers, streams, *jhils* and ponds. Large areas are watered by canals and wells. Wells number 1,345,174, of which 748,781 are of masonry. The number of masonry wells increased by 6,360 during the year. Gorakhpur and Basti districts built the largest number, viz., 1,527 and 1,048 respectively. Nearly half the irrigated area of the province is from wells.

130 The winter rains were deficient, and with the greater demand for water the net irrigated area increased by 6.5 per cent to 8,159,000 acres. Canals supplied 1,900,000 acres, wells 4,309,000 and ponds and other sources 2,250,000,

representing an increase of 16·2, 1·3 and 9 per cent. respectively.

Area irri-
gated from
public
works.

131. Until the monsoon set in there was a great demand for water from the canals and tanks of the Irrigation department. Unfortunately the demand exceeded the supply and the sugarcane crop suffered in consequence. Later in the year the position was reversed : the heavy rainfall and wide-spread floods made it unnecessary to resort to canal irrigation over a large area. By the beginning of December, however, the demand was normal and was adequately met. The percentages of *kharif* and *rabi* areas irrigated during the year were 45 and 55 respectively as compared with 55 and 45 in the previous year.

Value of
irrigated
crops.

132. The total value of crops irrigated from state canals rose from Rs. 1,348·40 lakhs to Rs. 1,642·66 lakhs. The rise in the price of food grains not only enhanced the value of the crops, but led to the sowing of a larger area for the more valuable *rabi*.

Financial
results.

133. Gross revenue dropped by Rs. 34·93 lakhs to Rs. 116·84 lakhs and working expenses by Rs. 2·62 lakhs to Rs. 55·09 lakhs. Thus the rent revenue, which amounted to Rs. 61·75 lakhs, declined by over 32 lakhs. This partially reflects the conditions of the previous year, 1923-24, as the occupier's rates for the *rabi* of that year were recoverable in the year under report.

Return to
capital
outlay.

134. After deducting interest charges, the net revenue on productive works (which include all the open canals) gave a return of 1·04 per cent. as compared with 4·07 per cent. in the previous year. Even the latter figure suggests that the canal rates are fair and moderate. In regard to unproductive works (which include chiefly the canal systems and tanks of the precarious tract of Bundelkhand) working expenses exceeded gross receipts by Rs. 2·88 lakhs. The percentage of loss on the total capital outlay thus worked out at 4·45 as compared with 4·01. Taking into consideration, however, the net revenue earned by productive works and the potential value of the protective works in the Bundelkhand area the loss is unimportant.

New capital
outlay.

135. The capital outlay increased from Rs. 111·73 to Rs. 124·75 lakhs. As in the previous year, the construction of the Sarda-Kichha Feeder Canal and the Sarda Oudh Canal

absorbed the greater portion of the outlay, the expenditure on these two canals amounting to Rs. 105·05 lakhs during the year. The progress made on the Sarda works was satisfactory. The construction of the Bareilly workshops was finished and all the machinery and tools required were installed. A large number of inspection houses and canal offices were completed.

Important works carried out, other than those connected with the Sarda, were the Barwar lake and canal in the Jhansi division, the Belasagar and Raipura tanks in the Dhasan Canal division and the Jaiwanti, Rampur, Kalyangarh and Aunihar tanks in the Ken Canal division.

The heavy rains at the end of September, 1924 resulted in floods of unprecedented magnitude in the Ganges, Jumna and Hindan rivers. The canal works suffered severely, especially at the headworks of the Ganges and the Jumna Canals. The headworks of the Agra, Rohilkhand and Bijnor Canals were also considerably damaged, and also one of the Dehra Dun Canals. The total expenditure on repairs amounted to Rs. 11·58 lakhs up to the end of March, 1925, and it is estimated that a further sum of Rs. 14·45 lakhs will be required to complete them. The Central Government assisted with a loan of Rs. 11·00 lakhs for expenditure during 1924-25. Of this Rs. 8·45 lakhs were spent on the restoration of the Dhanauri dam (13 miles below Hardwar). The destruction of this dam would have had most serious results and put out of action most of the Upper Ganges Canal system. But prompt measures were taken: the dam was restored with remarkable celerity, and a heavy loss in revenue and produce was thereby prevented. Sums of Rs. 1·43, 1·50 and 1·20 lakhs were spent on rebuilding the Kankahal bund below Hardwar, on the repairs to the Eastern Jumna Canal headworks and on the reconstruction of the Katapathar Canal, Dun Canals. The Punjab Government carried out repairs to works at Tajawala, the share of the cost debitable to this Government being Rs. 2·40 lakhs.

136. Lack of money prevents much progress being made in the programme of new works. The works proposed in the precarious area in the Jhansi division (Betwa Canal) are unproductive and are largely in the nature of an insurance against famine.

Proposed
construc-
tion.

Adminis-
tration.

137. Important territorial changes were made both in the running and Sarda Canals. The headquarters of the IX Sarda division was transferred from Hardoi to Lucknow and that of the third sub-division of the Mainpuri division, Lower Ganges Canal, from Karauli to Etah. The creation of two additional temporary divisions and a third temporary circle of superintendence in the Sarda Canal necessitated a redistribution of divisions. In order to repair the damage to the Ganges and Jumna Canals quickly and efficiently, temporary divisions or sub-divisions were established, which, when the work was finished, were either absorbed into territorial units or were abolished.

22. Agricultural development.

(See the report of the Agriculture department for the year ending June 30, 1925, and the report of the Civil Veterinary department for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

Extent of
operations.

138. The activities of the department are many. Important research work was undertaken to improve seed production, especially of cotton, sugarcane and rice, to combat the ravages of crop disease, especially the insect pests of cotton, and to introduce varieties of crops giving a better and heavier yield. The department continues not only to construct tube wells itself and to grow improved seed in large quantities for sale to the cultivators, but also helps zamindars and local bodies to do the same. The department is extending the work of the experimental and the demonstration farms and plots which it maintains, so as to teach the cultivator how best to plough, manure and water. One of its branches deals with the improvement of the breed of cattle and horses and the prevention and cure of their diseases. It is also tackling the problem of the dairy industry. Lastly, it provides agricultural education, the two chief centres of which are the Agricultural College at Cawnpore and the Agricultural School at Bulandshahr.

(1) Irriga-
tion:
Tube wells.

139. Twenty-three tube wells were constructed as compared with forty-eight in the previous year. The fall is due to causes of a temporary nature which have been discovered and removed and is not due to a diminished demand

for these wells. The demand is in fact growing, 101 inquiries having been received and investigated in the year. Thirty-four tube wells were under construction in September 1925. But a large part of the province for which irrigation Thirty-four tube wells were under construction in September about 80 per cent. of the wells recently completed having been constructed in eight only of the forty-five plains districts. The lines of advance are now clear. Wherever a tube well is sunk, the department introduces some form of intensive cultivation without which the wells and pumping plants do not pay. A series of good monsoons has fortunately raised the spring water level higher than it has been for 15 years. The cost of raising water both by bullocks or power has therefore appreciably diminished. The Government have at the same time examined the rules for takavi advances, from which tube wells are usually constructed. The procedure for the grant of loans was found to be dilatory, and the rules have been changed. It is hoped that one hindrance to the construction of tube wells has thus been removed.

Ordinary well boring to improve existing masonry wells and to select suitable sites for new ones is expanding, 656 borings having been made as compared with 608 in the previous year. Provision was made for ten additional borers. Sixty-eight per cent. of the borings made in 1925 were successful.

140. The most important farms are those of the Agricultural College, Cawnpore, and the Agricultural School at Bulandshahr. Both are intended for the instruction of students. Farms of this kind are not expected to pay. Even so, the loss was heavy, amounting to Rs. 17,484 compared with Rs. 6,250 in the previous year. The position is being examined, and it is hoped to reduce the loss in future.

141. Research farms are also not as a rule commercially profitable. It is therefore gratifying to see that the Raya cotton farm in Muttra showed a profit of over ten thousand rupees. A new farm for research on potatoes has been opened at Farukhabad. At the Cawnpore research farm research is devoted to improving the varieties of oilseeds, fibres and rice. The investigation of methods of controlling insect and fungoid pests is also undertaken. Work on cotton led to the establishment of an important type of cotton known as Aligarh 19.

Boring of
ordinary
wells.

(2) Farms:
(a) Instructional.

(b) Research.

which is satisfactory both in point of fibre and yield, and has come into general cultivation in the Western circle. Another very useful variety of cotton is C402, the seed of which is now produced at Raya and elsewhere.

The Economic Botanist continued the investigation of rice. Good work has also been done on oilseeds, the main object being to isolate types with a high percentage and ability to resist rust. Jute has been successfully introduced in the Sitapur and Kheri districts. An investigation into the manurial values of various nitrogen compounds was completed.

(c) Experimental.

142. There are five experimental farms at Aligarh, Cawnpore, Partabgarh, Gorakhpur and Shahjahanpur. The Shahjahanpur and Gorakhpur farms continue to work at a profit, while those at Aligarh, Cawnpore and Partabgarh have showed a smaller loss than in the previous year. Profit, however, is a secondary consideration in such farms.

The experimental farms have so far aimed at producing improved varieties, and valuable work in this direction has been done at Shahjahanpur in connexion with sugarcane. Experiments have also been made on varieties of sugarcane suitable for dry tracts. Two varieties have been found which, though entirely unirrigated, give good yields; and it is believed that less water is required for sugarcane in Rohilkhand than in other parts of the province. If the sugarcane cultivators in Rohilkhand could be induced to abandon their wasteful methods, much water would be saved which could be made available to increase the effective area to be covered by the new Sarda Canal. Experimental farms have still to investigate the important question of how soil conditions affect the growth of plants.

(d) Demonstration.

143. There were 15 demonstration farms. Their financial position is improving to such an extent that it is now possible to run them on commercial lines. There are only three farms working at a loss. Four farms which in the previous year worked at a loss of Rs. 215, Rs. 190, Rs. 2,258 and Rs. 719 respectively made a profit of Rs. 1,369, Rs. 4,144, Rs. 489 and Rs. 3,167. The most successful farm is at Kalai (Aligarh) which showed a profit of Rs. 11,770. The profit on four other farms has risen from Rs. 281, Rs. 869, Rs. 112 and Rs. 1,203 to Rs. 4,931, Rs. 2,576, Rs. 392 and Rs. 2,791 respectively.

The financial success of the farms has stimulated private enterprise, and the number of privately owned farms managed with the advice and assistance of the department increased by 99 and is now 504. One private farm of 60 acres yielded a profit of Rs. 6,243 and another of the same area Rs. 4,135. Most of the new farms have an area of 50 acres and over. A new system of demonstrating the Shahjahanpur method of growing sugarcane gained popularity, and is now employed in 54 villages of the Rohilkhand circle over an area of 116 acres in place of 15 acres in 26 villages in the previous year. The special feature of this demonstration scheme requires subordinate officers of the department to live in the villages in order to give advice and assistance.

The demand for better ploughs, labour-saving implements and sugarcane mills is increasing, the sale of implements by the department (in most cases to small cultivators) rising from 4,570 in 1924 to 7,709 in 1925. Demonstrations in hot weather ploughing of land infested with *baisuri* (a weed which at present is causing damage to one million acres of cultivation in the province) were carried out in 28 villages in the Agra division. The increased returns on land where the experiment was tried are estimated at Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per acre.

144. The distribution of better varieties of seed to cultivators rose from 56,484 to 71,199 maunds. Ten central seed stores have been completed. Three are under construction, while six more have been proposed for next year. The benefit to India by the introduction of improved seed is estimated to amount to five times the cost of the imperial and provincial departments of agriculture. To stimulate the growth and distribution of seed, the department encourages individual zamindars and *quasi*-official bodies, such as Court of Wards estates, agricultural societies and local bodies, to maintain seed farms. But these methods are inadequate to ensure the supply of seed in sufficiently large quantities. It is therefore proposed to subsidize private farms to produce pure seed under departmental supervision on condition that they sell it to the department at market rates. The department also contemplates an extension of the system of leasing land for seed production from zamindars who are given grants for building

(c) Seed
distribution.

tube wells—land adjoining tube wells, as already remarked, being suitable for intensive cultivation.

(3) Prevention and cure of disease of crops.

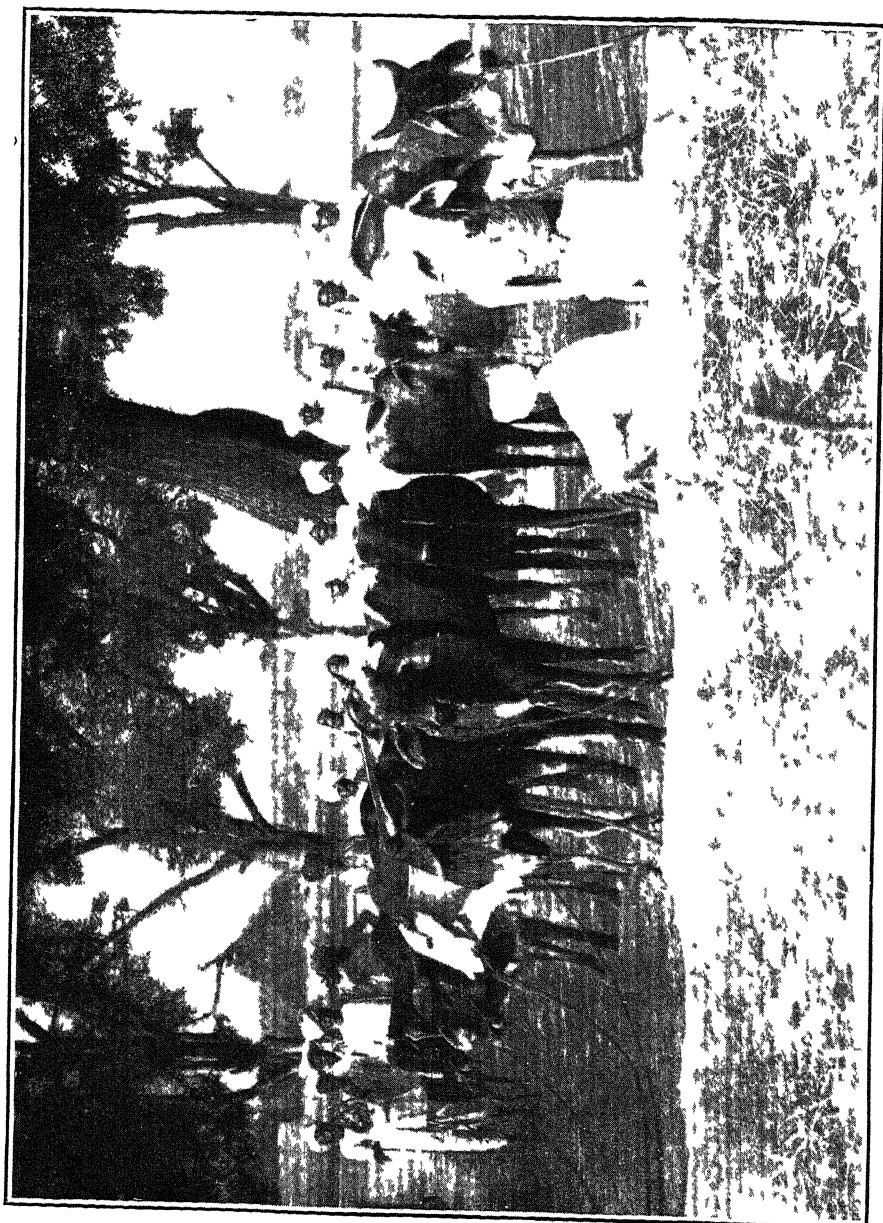
145. The loss occasioned by the ravages of the pink boll worm is at least 20 per cent. of the annual cotton crop. The Entomologist is conducting experiments with a view to minimising this loss. The problem of potato storage is also one of considerable economic interest, the waste consequent on rotting being estimated at 50 lakhs of maunds of potatoes every year. The Plant Pathologist has completed the installation of a cold storage plant for potatoes.

(4) Education in agricultural knowledge.

146. There are two institutions which give modern education in agriculture—the college at Cawnpore and the school at Bulandshahr. One hundred and sixteen students in all were in residence in Cawnpore against 117 in the previous year. The number of students who joined the college with the express object of entering Government service was 26 per cent of the total number admitted, though a larger number would probably be ready to accept employment if it was offered. At Cawnpore 16 out of 18 students passed the final L.A.G. Examination conducted by outside examiners, while 18 out of 19 passed the final examination of the two years' course. The high standard of training at the college is indicated by the fact that one diplomate of the college was awarded a research studentship in Entomology by the Central Cotton Committee and another was admitted to the post-graduate course at the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa. The fine college buildings are being gradually extended, the new wings being estimated to cost over Rs. 5 lakhs.

The number of students in the Bulandshahr School was 45, against 43 in the previous year. It is interesting to note that ten of those who took the two years' course were teachers of middle vernacular schools who were being trained with the object of opening agricultural classes.

Short courses of practical instruction were given at Shahjahanpur to three students who have since opened private farms. These courses should be of great help to zamindars, and only the lack of accommodation prevents their being more largely attended.



Distribution of young bulls to village representatives in the controlled breeding area—Muttra district

147 The improvement of cattle is a vital part of the department's activities. The increasing use of new types of plough, more efficient because they plough deeper, demands a stronger breed of cattle and if ever the dairy industry is to be firmly established, a better milker than the indigenous cow is required. The Government maintain two cattle-breeding farms—at Madhur Kund (Muttra) and Manjhara (Khari). The former specialises in Hissai cattle, for which there is a large demand in the western districts. At present it covers 613 acres of which 500 are under cultivation, but it is being largely extended. The extension will enable the breeding herd and the number of bulls available for distribution on loan to be increased, their present numbers being 311 and 46 respectively. But the farms cannot meet the full demand for bulls. For this reason "controlled breeding areas" have been formed to supplement the work of the departmental farms. The controlled areas, which are groups of villages possessing good cows, are really extended cattle farms and the breeding operations are controlled by cattle inspectors who keep accurate records. Bulls are supplied to these areas by stud farms, the inferior local bulls being eliminated as far as possible. Three controlled areas for breeding cattle have been established—two in Muttra and one in Etawah.

As to the Manjhara farm, the breeding herd there was increased from 220 to 255. The farm has met with some measure of success in producing breeds suitable for *Tarai* conditions. The success of the experiment is shown by the fact that the farm now issues Murrah buffalo bulls for crossing with local buffalo cows. Another successful experiment is the establishment of the *Sahawal* herd for milk production in the *Tarai*. The experiment was tried of crossing English Ayrshires with the *Sahawal*, but the result was not satisfactory owing to their increased susceptibility to disease. In a recent outbreak of rinderpest half the cattle which died were English cross-breeds. The third breed at Manjhara is of Khairigarh cattle which, though not to be classed as a superior breed, are hardy and suitable for *Tarai* conditions.

The department recognizes the importance in every scheme of cattle improvement of the production of heavy crops of fodder and much experimental work has investigated

the intensive cultivation of the fodder crops grown in the province, the introduction of new varieties and the preparation of

(b) Poultry, silage.

148. The Civil Veterinary department maintain a small demonstration poultry run at the Badshah Bagh (Lucknow) research station where research work into diseases of fowls is also undertaken.

(c) Horse breeding.

149. At the end of the year the Civil Veterinary department had 57 stallions and 13 donkeys at stud as against 63 and 13 respectively in the previous year. They continue to do good work in the improvement of local stock. Private individuals have been encouraged to keep good mares by the decision of the Government to grant covering and foaling certificates to owners of mares. This will enhance the value of the foals.

(6) Prevention and cure of diseases affecting live stock.

150. Among cattle deaths from rinderpest reached the high figure of 7,871 and are a factor in the serious rise in mortality from 8,760 to 18,050. The figures cannot be guaranteed as complete. Segregation and inoculation gave good results in the treatment of rinderpest. There was also a rise in mortality from foot-and-mouth disease, haemorrhagic septicaemia, blackquarter and anthrax.

There was practically no epidemic disease among horses. The only noticeable rise was in surra, the mortality from which rose from 10 to 26.

Inoculations.

151. Forty-four thousand two hundred and sixty-eight cattle attacked by rinderpest were inoculated in 354 outbreaks as against 31,065 cattle in 270 outbreaks of the previous year. Of the cattle inoculated 72 died as compared with 45 in the preceding year.

The number of hospitals and dispensaries rose from 126 to 129 and the total number of patients treated in hospital from 170,002 to 181,282. The latter figure does not include 16,505 animals which were treated at home. The total number of inoculations and vaccinations was 65,108.

Strength and cost of the Agriculture department.

152. There were six Deputy Directors' circles under the Director of Agriculture. A seventh Deputy Director was in charge of cattle-breeding operations. The research staff consisted of the Entomologist, three Economic Botanists, two Agricultural Chemists, the Professor of Agriculture and the Plant Pathologist with their assistants and staff. The

engineering section consisted of two Agricultural Engineers with their assistants. A third Agricultural Engineer was added during the year. The total cost of the department and its operations, including Rs. 57,500 for non-recurring expenditure on seed stores, rose from Rs. 18.06 lakhs in 1923-24 to Rs. 18.83 lakhs in 1924-25. For 1925-26 the budget estimates amounted to Rs. 20.13 lakhs.

153 The establishment consists of 16 veterinary inspectors, 2 research overseers and 176 veterinary assistant surgeons. A number of assistant surgeons are attached to headquarters for urgent inoculation or investigation duty in any part of the province. The cost of the department fell from Rs. 3.34 lakhs to Rs. 3.17 lakhs.

154. Various bodies exist whose function is to co-ordinate the efforts of officials and to secure effective co-operation with the public. These are the Indian Central Cotton Committee (Imperial), the Board of Agriculture, the Cotton Committee, the Cattle Committee (provincial) and Agricultural Supply Societies (local). The provincial Board of Agriculture guides all agricultural developments and makes grants to stimulate private enterprise. It has for instance made grants of Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 1,500 to two private persons in Agra and Aligarh in aid of schemes by which milk is collected from villages and supplied to the cities of Agra and Hathras.

Hardoi, which agriculturally is one of the most advanced districts in the province, provides an excellent example of the way in which the activities of the different sections of the department can be co-ordinated and used to assist private enterprise. Several tube wells were sunk there and under departmental advice were followed by the establishment of private farms by leading landowners. The possibilities of scientific agriculture were shown at once by the remarkably good crops of Java sugarcane and Pusa wheat obtained. The average yield of indigenous varieties of sugarcane in the province is 345 maunds per acre. In the private Hardoi farms the average yield rose to 901 maunds. In one tahsil of the district the yield of improved seed worked out at nearly Rs. 4.04 lakhs in value as compared with Rs. 1.54 lakhs produced by indigenous seed in the same area.

23. Horticulture.

(See the report on Government gardens for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

General.

155. The major gardens of the province are the archaeological and provincial gardens, Agra (595 acres), the archaeological and horticultural gardens, Lucknow (133 acres), the archaeological and provincial gardens, Allahabad (363 acres), the botanical gardens, Saharanpur (163 acres), the Chaubattia orchard (142 acres) and the Kumaun gardens (56 acres).

These together with the minor gardens at Lucknow (Government House) and Dehra Dun (Circuit House) are in charge of a Deputy Director. In addition, public gardens are maintained in seven districts by district officers.

The Archaeological department has taken over the grounds attached to all buildings of historical importance, and the net expense of upkeep (which amounted to Rs. 43,813 in the year) has now been charged to the Central Government from April 1, 1924. The grounds of the Residency (Lucknow) were so transferred during the year, as well as the gardens of the Nadan Mahal and Ibrahim Chisti, also at Lucknow.

Work of the year.

156. The unusually heavy floods of September 1924 damaged seedlings and vegetables in Saharanpur, and invaded the pot nurseries in the Taj gardens and the fruit garden at Rambagh. It was not till the end of the year that the Lucknow gardens recovered from the effects of the floods. The department continued to experiment in fruit and potato storage, artificial manuring, the destruction of fungus and the acclimatization of new varieties of fruit, trees and potatoes. Many of the potatoes now grown commercially in Kumaun were originally introduced by the Government gardens there. Strawberries have been grown successfully for the first time at Chaubattia. The installation of a tube well and oil-engine was completed at Saharanpur. The Lucknow horticultural gardens supply seeds free of cost to all schools and colleges in the province which teach nature study.

Financial results.

157. Working expenses have been further reduced from Rs. 2.44 lakhs to Rs. 2.2 lakhs. The net charges for the year amounted to Rs. 1.24 lakhs as compared with Rs. 2.46

lakhs in 1921-22, the year before the department was reorganized. It will, however, hardly be possible to lower the gross cost of upkeep further without impairing efficiency. Horticultural development is not entirely a business concern, for public gardens, besides serving utilitarian objects, also beautify the towns in which they are situated.

24. Forests.

(See the report on Forest Administration for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

158. The adjustments consequent on the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Kumaun Forest Grievances Committee were practically completed in 1924. The Kumaun forests have been classified as class I (not of immediate commercial importance) and class II (commercially valuable). Control is only nominal in the former, but in the latter will continue subject to the exercise of recorded and admitted rights and customs. Rules embodying the changes have been framed in consultation with the newly created Kumaun Forest Committee. Local opinion is amply represented on this committee which should be of assistance to revenue and forest officers in future questions of policy.

Important
events.

Unfortunately the immediate result of the changes has been grave damage to forests in areas released from departmental control. Disforestations in the year amounted to 80 sq. miles and the total now reached in the Kumaun Circle is 139 sq. miles. The public have not been slow to realize their opportunities under the new system and in places easy of access destruction is proceeding at an alarming rate and the possibility of regeneration of species is being seriously affected. With the help of the newly created Forest Committee Government are considering measures of communal or village management, so that the people may understand the utility of the forests and appreciate the permanent harm caused by inconsiderate destruction to meet the requirements of the moment. The boundaries of 151 villages in the Kumaun division have been revised, where it was considered that forest boundaries rendered them too confined.

The cost of administration has been reduced by amalgamating the Ranikhet and Central Almora divisions. The Utilization Circle has also been held in abeyance. Excellent systematic work has been done in the Working Plans Circle, resulting in financial improvement, especially in the Eastern and Western Circles. Two divisions which used to produce a deficit now yield surpluses, one of them over a lakh of rupees. Experiments in hay storage—designed to ensure early supply in times of fodder scarcity—are proving successful.

Production;
(a) Silviculture.

159. *Sal* and *chir* form the bulk of the timber produce of forests in these provinces. Natural reproduction of *sal* is a vital problem of silviculture, but the seed year was a poor one. Working Plans now lay down definite areas in which regeneration is to be induced in a definite period, but the United Provinces are not the *optimum habitat* of the *sal*, and no method has yet been evolved by which regeneration can be induced at will where previously non-existent. It seems certain that occasional light fires by doing away with sour humus and the thick layer of *sal* leaves, have a favourable effect on seed germination.

Regeneration of *sal* by "coppice" continues to yield very satisfactory results. Artificial reproduction of this species is not financially practicable except under what is known as the *taungya* system. This involves the sowing of *sal* seed in lines with catch crops between. A body of cultivators in Gorakhpur have taken up the system very successfully and after one more season certain of the areas can be left to form new *sal* forest, while the cultivators move to the virgin soil of a freshly felled area. The crops they raise in such areas seem extremely profitable. Endeavours are being made to introduce the system in the Gonda division and there are possibilities of its extension into the Bhinga forest of the Bahraich division, but cultivators of the right stamp are not yet available.

Special mention may be made of efforts to introduce miscellaneous species in certain blank areas (called in places "chandars") in *sal* forests. These blank spaces are covered with coarse grasses and with stunted *sal* of uncertain age which is cut back each year by frost, so that they never grow into poles.

These forms of regeneration are receiving much attention and, it is hoped, will prove successful.

Chir planting is very successful in Kumaun, where the number of plantations is large. It should be possible to extend this system under a communal forest scheme, the department first forming the plantations before they are handed over to communal control. The fires of 1921 and other years have done great damage to *chir* forests in Kumaun; large numbers of trees were killed, and young pole crops that on casual observation give the impression of having recovered have in many cases been so damaged that they will be incapable of producing timber of any value.

An important aspect of forest activity is the afforestation of denuded ravine areas and tracts at present treeless, but suitable for the formation of fuel and fodder reserves. Two thousand two hundred and twenty-eight acres of new ground were sown up, as against 2,128 in the previous year. The operations were uniformly successful, except in Agra where rainfall was scanty. *Khair* and bamboo have been put in with remarkable success. *Babul*, *sissoo* and grass continue to be grown extensively. The cultivation of *lac* has been further tried in the Jhansi and afforestation divisions, but without much success in the former. The average cost of afforestation fell from Rs. 59 per acre to Rs. 50. These afforestation works have got beyond the experimental stage; the only questions now are to get land made available and funds.

160. This subject, without which the continued financial success of territorial circles cannot be assured, has received careful attention, the Conservator in charge having looked personally into the revision of current Working Plans during the course of his extensive tours. Original plans are nearing completion for an area of 520 sq. miles and plans relating to 1,210 sq. miles are under revision, leaving hardly any arrears of work. (b) Work-
ing Plans.

161. The total value of produce removed from forests was Rs. 73.18 lakhs—timber amounting to Rs. 45.32 lakhs, fuel to Rs. 9.33 lakhs, minor produce to Rs. 16.70 lakhs and bamboos to Rs. 1.82 lakhs. (c) Produce:
(i) Raw
material.

The value of fuel removed fell by about Rs. 60,000, owing to smaller indents from hill cantonments to which

fuel is supplied departmentally. Mention may also be made of the resin industry, which is of great importance to Kumaun. Resin is the only important form of minor produce extracted departmentally, but while tapping operations still remain in the hands of the department, the manufacture and sales have been handed over to the Indian Turpentine and Rosin Company. The demand for timber for railway sleepers continues and an efficient system of supply to railways has been evolved.

(14) Partially
or wholly
finished
products.
The
Utilization
Circle.

162 The Utilization conservatorship continued in existence during the year, but without any divisional changes. At the end of the year it was held in abeyance. It had in the previous year ceased to have any direct connexion with the (Titterbuckganj) factories and the Wood-Working Institute. The factories are now controlled by the Indian Bobbin Company and the Indian Turpentine and Rosin Company in both of which Government holds a large share. The companies received their trading certificates in 1924, in August and October respectively.

The Utilization Circle is now replaced by a small Utilization division.

Grazing.

163 The percentage of forest area open to grazing (69) was the same as last year. There was, however, a decline in the number of cattle (principally cows and bullocks) for which grazing was provided—from 1,111,094 to 1,069,122.

Roads and
bridges.

164. Exclusive of tramways, the total expenditure on roads and bridges increased from Rs 1.96 lakhs to Rs. 2.19 lakhs, the expenditure on new construction being only Rs. 45,896 as against Rs 55,228 in the previous year. It is unfortunate that financial conditions did not permit of an adequate development of communications. Without the latter forest exploitation cannot be effective. The increase in expenditure on repairs amounting to Rs. 34,000 is explained by the fact that large sums of money were required to repair damage done by floods.

Tramways
and wet
slides.

165. The forest tramways continue to expand. Rupees 1.31 lakhs were spent on the construction of part of a steam tramway from Lalkua railway station to the mouth of the Nandhaur river valley. The first fourteen miles of the line were completed by the end of March, 1924. The Motichur valley tramway in the Dehra Dun district was much damaged

by the floods, and as the value of produce still left in the valley was small compared with the cost which repairs to the line would have entailed, it has now been taken up and the material used elsewhere.

A steam tramway for the development of Northern Gorakhpur made satisfactory progress and cost Rs. 69,935 during the year. The same area will also be served by a new branch of the Bengal and North-Western Railway from Pharenda to Nautanwan which should be working early in 1926. Good progress was also made with the Hardwar-Rikhikesh extension of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.

The two wet slides for timber made departmentally in Chakrata division have proved very profitable, having produced a revenue of Rs. 17,000 on a capital expenditure of Rs. 15,000.

166. The area damaged by forest fires rose from 75 sq. miles (2 per cent. of area attempted) last year to 115 sq. miles (3.2 per cent.), the cost of protection increasing from Rs. 32 per sq. mile to Rs. 33. This is to some extent due to an increase of departmental burning, it being believed that light controlled annual fires do much less damage than uncontrolled fires after one or more years of successful protection. The telephone system in the North Kheri division affords practical immunity from fires. It is unfortunate that several of the worst fires occurred in areas under regeneration in Kumaun, which is already very backward in this respect.

167. Extensive damage was done by floods, specially to valuable *shisham* stocks, while severe frost in January, 1925 caused injury to young *sal*. Wild animals (including elephants) were responsible as usual for a good deal of destruction.

As to insects, the depredations of the *sal* borer declined in the Thano forests of the Dehra Dun division, but increased in a few others. The *shisham* fungus was virulent in a plantation in the Haldwani division.

168. Conditions are much the same as last year. Of 197 cases disposed of in court, convictions were obtained in

149. Illicit grazing is responsible as usual for the largest number.

Protection:
(a) from
fire.

(b) from
injury due
to natural
causes.

(c) from
crime.

Financial
results.

169. The administrative and financial problems of Kumaun forests are particularly complex, but every attempt is made to reduce expenditure. Establishment charges have been reduced from Rs. 3.88 lakhs (the average of the past five years) to about Rs. 3 lakhs. The cost of works of maintenance and improvement is not likely to decline, for Kumaun, as pointed out above, has much regeneration work to do. The figures for net revenue (which do not include a payment for resin still due from the company of Rs. 1.5 lakhs) are Rs. 4.02 lakhs against a total expenditure of Rs. 4.37 lakhs. The financial position in Kumaun may therefore be taken as sound, but the circle will always require expert administration.

In areas other than Kumaun forests continue to pay. The figures of profit and loss have been closely examined, and new methods have been evolved of displaying results for public information. It is now clear that the expenditure on the Eastern Circle bears an exceptionally low proportion (29 per cent.) to its revenue; but it cannot continue at this low level. Its buildings are in a highly unsatisfactory condition, and the normal programme of building, which has been postponed for a number of years, must be taken up. Expenditure on communications must also be increased if forest resources are to be utilized to the best advantage.

25. Mines and Quarries.

Mines.

170. Conditions in 1924-25 were much the same as in the previous year. The province is poor in minerals.

Mines in the province are practically negligible. Traces of gold in the Sona river and the Kohtri range are again reported from Garhwal, gold of the value of Rs. 75 having been recovered at a cost of Rs. 125 on labour. About one-third of a ton of iron was smelted in Jhansi.

Quarries.

171. The extraction of slates (found chiefly in the districts of Kumaun division), building stones (of which Mirzapur, Agra and Saharanpur are the chief centres), ballast (the chief centres of which are Mirzapur, Jalaun and Agra) and soap stones used for building and other purposes (found chiefly in Hamirpur) continued to increase. Building stones consist

chiefly of sandstones of various kinds. Red granite is the most common variety, the grey granite of the Suwaliks coming next. The building stone of the Himalayan districts is mostly obtained from boulder stones.

Kankar and limestone continued to decrease, the decline in the extraction of the latter being marked. This is probably due to their inferior quality.

26. Industrial output.

(See the report of the Industries department for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

172. The growth of industries during the year has been slow but steady. This province, like other provinces, has taken time to recover from the reaction which followed the post-war boom of 1920-21. The difficulty remains of obtaining adequate capital for industries. The coal position was at first unsatisfactory, but later improved. The relations between labour and capital were, on the whole, good and there was no scarcity of labour.

General
state of
industry.

173. The cotton industry, the most important of the province, shows at present no sign of recovering from the previous year's depression. The price of raw cotton rose sharply at the beginning of the year, without a corresponding rise in the price of manufactured articles. Towards the end of the year the price of cotton fell, but this did not help the manufacturer, as the price of manufactured goods fell too. Conditions thus generally remained unfavourable throughout the year, and though there was a slight increase in the work of ginning and pressing factories, the spinning and weaving industries had to tide over another bad year.

A. Lead-
ing
industries:
Cotton.

The profits of the hand-loom weaver continued to decline, but the cottage industry possesses great powers of resistance. It has not been driven out of the market by power-driven factories. The weaver can compete successfully with the mills not merely in the production of finer fabrics, but also in the output of the coarser counts. It is in the weaving of the medium counts that mill competition is felt. The weavers of the province produce 28 per cent of the cotton cloth con-

sumed, while in the neighbouring province of Bihar the production is as high as 40 per cent. The difference in the cost of production between mill and hand-loom cloth is inconsiderable. The main reason why hand-loom weaving is not progressing is that it lacks organization and marketing facilities. Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining a regular supply of yarn at reasonable rates. The yarn produced by hand spinners is unsatisfactory; though there are as many as 67,138 hand spinners in the province, they produce only one-seventh of the yarn used by hand weavers and none at all for the weaving mills. Modern machinery has reduced the *charkha* from a source of livelihood to a spare-time occupation. The weaver must therefore fall back upon yarn produced in factories, and the price of this is enhanced by middlemen's profits. There is a proposal to establish a departmental yarn store with a view to removing this handicap.

Engineer-
ing.

174. The general trade slump, especially in sugar, affected the factories which are the most important customers of engineering firms, and the latter had a difficult time. The production of some of the firms outside Cawnpore was in excess of the demand. Even so, the engineering industry made some progress. The number of iron, brass and steel foundries rose from two to eight. Cawnpore firms received a larger number of inquiries for agricultural and other machinery. Two new firms were started at Lucknow and Hathras. The Bharat Engineering Works at Lucknow extended their workshops in order to manufacture oil-engines. The Empire Engineering Company was reorganized, and commenced the manufacture of Gurgaun ploughs. The canal foundry at Roorkee started three new branches.

Sugar.

175. The sugar industry fared badly. Factories were unable to obtain a full supply of cane, and the rate for *gur* was high; and towards the end of the year large consignments of sugar were received from Java. But however much these conditions affected the profits of the old companies, they did not entirely discourage new enterprise. A new factory was opened at Hardoi with the assistance of the Agriculture department. The Aira factory of the Maha Lakshmi Sugar Corporation which received a loan of Rs. 1·20 lakhs had some difficulty in transporting machinery across the river, but

it is expected to start manufacturing operations in the coming year.

176. The province produces about one-fifth of the hides of India and is the centre of the boot and shoe manufacturing trade. But the internal supply of leather does not keep pace with the manufacture of leather goods. Vast quantities of hides and skin are at present tanned in villages by men who are ignorant of scientific methods and processes. The possibility of opening institutions for training the village tanner in modern methods is being considered by the Government. Certain large tanneries have failed, but their failure was due to extraneous circumstances. There is a large field for small tanneries employing modern methods. They involve comparatively little outlay and can be conveniently established close to the areas of production. Leather.

Cawnpore and Agra are the two most important centres of the leather industry, and continue to expand steadily. In Agra Messrs. K. V. and Co. considerably extended their operations, while the Dayal Bagh Model Industry started the manufacture of leather goods. The Agra Tannery which was reorganized is turning out chrome leather of improved quality. Experiments on chrome tanning were made at the Technological Institute where a small experimental tannery has been established, enabling the students to make chrome leather.

177. At the beginning of the year there were two woollen mills in the province, both situated in Cawnpore, and a third smaller mill was opened there during the year. Cheap European products, especially those from Italy, are making a strong effort to capture the market. Hand-loom factories, however, the chief centres of which are the Muzaffarnagar and Bijnor districts, find a ready sale for their products, mostly blankets, though the weaver is handicapped by not getting a regular and adequate supply of yarn of suitable quality at reasonable prices. It has been decided to start a small demonstration factory for the manufacture of woollen yarn at the Government Textile School, Cawnpore. Wool.

178. The oilseed crushing and refining industries expanded considerably thanks to the wider use of improved methods which reduce the cost of production. Special mention may be made of the improved ghanni mills invented by Mr. T. R. Lewis of Cawnpore, the output of which is oil.

about 75 per cent. higher than that of old machines. The Lewis machine will also save the oil miller much time, labour and money in the cost of erection and in annual repairs. One enterprising firm of oil milers started a soap plant from which soaps of a satisfactory quality were manufactured under the supervision of one of the ex-students of the Government Technological Institute. There is room for the employment of improved methods.

The situation in regard to essential oils, however, is one of anxiety. The manufacturers at Kanauj are finding it increasingly difficult, on account of high prices, to obtain sandal wood from Southern India. The province is poor in essential oil-bearing materials and unless they are cultivated extensively, the industry is doomed.

The oil expert gave useful advice to oil mills and to the Inspector-General of Prisons in matters connected with crushing and refining.

B. Other industries.

179. The silk industry had another good year owing to a substantial reduction in the price of raw material. New power and hand-loom factories were added during the year. A large aluminium factory was started at Benares. The brass and copper making industries, chiefly centred at Benares, Mirzapur and Moradabad, are thriving. Aligarh locks did well. This was due in some measure to the encouragement given by the Stores Purchase department, which also found an outlet for a number of other manufactures, such as the lanterns made by the Dayal Bagh Model Industries.

Wood-working industries based on modern methods made good progress. There is an enormous demand for skilled wood-workers in connexion with the construction of new Delhi. New carpentry schools or classes were opened with the help of the department.

The gold thread industry is gaining in importance. It is centralized at Benares where gold thread of the value of about Rs. 8,000 is made daily. The glass industry continued to labour under great difficulties owing to severe competition from Germany and Japan and heavy railway rates. The demand for artistic products (specially Farrukhabad prints), to which impetus was given by the sales at Wembley, was fairly steady in the beginning of the year, but slackened afterwards. The schools at Nagina and Moradabad which

were opened for the benefit of the chief art industries of those places made excellent progress. The durrie industry suffered from a further rise in the price of yarn.

27. Industrial development.

(See the report of the Industries department for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

180. In spite of financial difficulties, the activities of the department continued to expand in all directions. The wide scope of its operations can be gathered from the necessarily brief summary below. Education.

In the year 1923-24 there were eleven technical institutions directly maintained by Government. A short account of them was given in last year's report. A new institution was added during the year 1924-25—the Government Textile School, Cawnpore, which is designed to train foremen and artisans for power-driven textile mills. The old institutions were efficient, and students who passed out from them had little difficulty in finding suitable employment or in starting business on their own account. They are not, however, indefinitely elastic, and the department has taken an important step forward by subsidizing private institutions in order to extend the opportunities for training. Non-recurring grants-in-aid were given for starting eight new schools or classes, while four new institutions were brought on the list of those which receive permanent grants. The Board of Industries sanctioned schemes for aiding nine schools or classes, and proposals have been drawn up to open fifteen more weaving schools. The Government defrayed the greater portion of the cost of six weaving schools already in existence and gave recurring grants-in-aid to sixteen other institutions.

One foreign scholarship of the value of £ 240 a year tenable for two years with free passage both ways was given for the study of oil.

181. The weaving schools, the school of dyeing and printing, the leather working schools and the carpentry schools conducted demonstrations at industrial fairs and exhibitions. The number of such demonstrations was greater Demonstrations.

PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION.

than in any previous year. Demonstration work attracted unemployed youths and may be expected to bear fruit in the shape of an increased demand for technical schools. The impetus given to the industries of the province by the creation of overseas markets as a result of participation in the Wembley Exhibition (the net cost of which amounted to Rs. 1.60 lakhs) was noticed in last year's report. In order to help the small industrialist, who knows nothing of advertisement, the Government maintain an emporium for the sale of indigenous art products. The emporium has now been extended in size and scope and removed to premises in the chief shopping centre of Lucknow.

Financial
assistance.

182. The amount of the grant placed at the disposal of the Board of Industries for financing small schemes of industrial development was raised from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 : though even this latter sum is probably inadequate for growing demands. A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs was placed at the disposal of the Board of Industrial Loan Commissioners of which Rs. 1.44 lakhs were advanced to finance four large industrial schemes. About Rs. 20,000 were lent, in consultation with the department of co-operative societies, to finance small industrialists through co-operative organizations. The Stores Purchase department helps in the promotion of indigenous industries and the value of goods purchased through it increased from Rs. 11 to 13.27 lakhs. Practically all the articles purchased during the year were of Indian manufacture, with the exception of iron and steel, hardware and scientific instruments, which could not be had in India. Large orders were placed with seven jails of the province for the supply of tents, blankets, durries, dusters, *newar*, rope and putties.

Research.

183. The Technological Institute, Cawnpore, and the Industrial Chemist, who now works under the Principal of the Institute, made important investigations, the chief of which were concerned with the manufacture of strychnine from nux vomica, the aromatic hydrocarbons in Burma petroleum, the preparation of geraniol from citronella oil and citral, the manufacture of perfumes from Bareilly turpentine, the utilization of lac-dye, the manufacture of alcohol from rice waste, the manufacture of crystalline sugar from molasses, the selection of a pure race of castor seed with a view to increasing

the oil percentage per acre, the refining and deodorization of neem oil and the bleaching of shellac. Two hundred and fifty-four inquiries were also dealt with, 108 involving analysis and examination

184. The factory and boiler inspection branch instituted four prosecutions, all of which ended in conviction. The number of women and children employed again decreased. There was an appreciable improvement in working conditions inside the factories in the way of better arrangements for water supply, lighting, general sanitation, prevention of accidents, observance of rest periods and care of women and juvenile employees.

Outside the factory, welfare work was confined chiefly to Cawnpore, where the British India Corporation—which is a combination of seven large industrial firms—is doing pioneer work in humanizing industrial conditions. Model villages have been provided containing over two thousand houses to be let out at nominal rents under a staff specially trained in welfare work. Two dispensaries for men and two for women have been established. Maternity and child-welfare work receives special attention: clinics have been established, health visitors have been employed, indigenous midwives are trained and milk is given free to new-born babies and their mothers. Night schools have been provided for workers and day schools for their children. Petty disputes are referred to panchayats. Recreation for labourers has been carefully planned, while efforts are made to overcome economic difficulties not only through the agency of co-operative credit societies which advance large amounts as loans, but also through grants to workers in the shape of a superannuation fund and to their families when the workers die in the service of the companies.

185. One branch of the department deals with the collection and dissemination of industrial information. Survey reports of all the 48 districts of the province are now complete.

Mr. Duke, oil expert, wrote a valuable book on the oil crushing and oil refining industry of the province, which is being translated into Hindi and Urdu; while Mr. Mullick of the Central Wood-Working Institute, Bareilly, wrote a note (which is also being translated) on kiln seasoning—an industry

of the future which is at present unknown in the province outside Government institutions.

28. Trade.

(See the report of the Industries department and the report on Foreign Trade for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

INTER-PROVINCIAL AND OVERSEAS TRADE.

General.

186. It is no longer possible to give details of inter-provincial and internal movements of commodities by rail and water, as the compilation of statistics on the subject has ceased for the last three years. Nor is it possible to give detailed and accurate information regarding the overseas trade of the province.

Sea-borne trade.

187. Generally speaking the province has shared in the trade revival which followed the abnormal depression of 1921 when the total value of the sea-borne trade—both exports and imports—touched a lower figure than any during the last 15 years. A series of good monsoons has helped on the process.

In 1924 both imports and exports increased, particularly the latter. Imports of iron and steel rose noticeably. The export of Mirzapur and Agra carpets fell considerably from August 1924 onwards owing to the high rate of exchange and the dearness of country yarn. There was a slight setback in 1925, but all things considered the province is making good progress towards recovery.

TRANS-FRONTIER TRADE.

General.

188. Trade with Nepal and Tibet varied little from the figures of the previous year: the weight increased from 3,071,890 to 3,235,582 maunds and the value decreased from Rs. 335.84 to Rs. 333.17 lakhs.

The total value of imports declined from Rs. 260.75 lakhs to Rs. 249.04 lakhs, while that of exports rose from Rs. 75.08 to Rs. 84.12 lakhs. The share of Tibet and Nepal in the import trade stood at Rs. 13.26 and Rs. 235.78 lakhs, respectively, while the value of exports to Tibet amounted to Rs. 4.53 lakhs and to Nepal Rs. 79.59 lakhs.

189. Imports of grain increased, and so, to a lesser extent, did imports of hides, skins, horses, ponies and mules. On the other hand, imports of raw fibrous products, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, nuts, dyeing materials, drugs and medicines decreased. There was a rise in manufactured cotton and grain exported to Nepal. Nature of Trade: Nepal.

190. The leading commodities of the import trade with Tibet, viz., borax, salt and wool, showed an appreciable fall. The value of sheep, goats, ponies and mules imported also declined, but that of cattle rose slightly. There was a general falling off in the export trade, which consists mostly of cotton goods, food grains and sugar. Tibet.

29. Communications, buildings and power.

(See the report of the Public Works department, Buildings and Roads branch, for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

191. The only line under construction during the year was the branch line from Rikhikesh Road station to Rikhikesh. A diversion of the Agra-Delhi chord railway, which forms part of the project to meet the requirements of the new capital, was opened for passenger traffic on December 17, 1924. It has been decided to remodel and rearrange the broad gauge station and railway workshops at Lucknow to meet requirements created by the amalgamation of the East Indian and the Oudh and Rohilkhand railways. Railways.

192. The total length of metalled and unmetalled roads maintained by departmental agency was 5,304 and 1,509 miles, respectively. Two thousand two hundred and twenty-one miles of metalled roads were under the control of local agencies. At the end of October 1924 the control of local roads throughout the province was transferred to district boards, except in the Kumaun division and in the districts of Bareilly, Dehra Dun and Mirzapur. A comprehensive scheme of road reconstruction was approved by Government, and funds were provided by means of a loan. This will ensure more modern methods of construction and an extensive use of bitumen as binding material—the latter is so far unknown in these provinces. Special attention is being paid to the roads Roads.

subjected to very heavy traffic; but though the process of the deterioration of road surfaces has been temporarily arrested, it will only be permanently checked when funds are available to finance the full scheme of reconstruction and maintenance. The floods caused great damage to roads and bridges (specially in Kumaun), the total being estimated at Rs. 18.25 lakhs. Expenditure on the construction of new roads and on repairs to old roads amounted to Rs. 11.90 and Rs. 35.51 lakhs, respectively, as against Rs. 5.89 and 28.71 lakhs of the previous year.

Progress has been made in metalling or widening the provincial roads. A sum of Rs. 14,909 was spent on raising and metalling the Cawnpore-Etawah road and Rs. 19,950 on the Gonda-Bahraich road. The widening of the Meerut-Moradabad-Bareilly road (which has been in progress for some years) cost Rs. 71,958 during the year. The work of widening the Agra-Mainpuri-Bhogaon road was completed. Improvements to the Bareilly-Ranikhet road in the Kuria-Ranikhet sections cost rupees one lakh during the year, while six miles of the road from Ranikhet in the Khairna-Ranikhet section were completed at an expenditure of Rs. 1.14 lakhs. The bridging of the two dips on the Lucknow-Cawnpore road in the Unao district progressed satisfactorily, the total amount spent up to March 1925 being Rs. 1.34 lakhs.

As to local roads, the work of widening the Agra-Fatehabad road (Agra district), of metalling the Pilibhit-Bisalpur road (Pilibhit district), and of raising and metalling a section of the Hydergarh-Fatehpur road (Bara Banki district) continued. The portion of the Balrampur-Bahraich road which lies in the Bahraich district was completed, though no progress could be made on the portion in the Gonda district for lack of funds. The construction of a cart-road from Kalukhet to Bhatta (Dehra Dun) was continued. The fair weather road from Phaphamau to Hanumanganj (Allahabad) was completed.

Bridges.

193. In the Shahjahanpur district, in addition to the reinforced concrete bridge over the Gumti river (which was almost completed), the construction of a bridge of the same kind over the Baigul river progressed satisfactorily. The construction of a bridge of boats on the Agra-Dholpur-Bombay road was begun. A suspension bridge over the Ganges river in the Almora district was completed.

Much work was done in river training in the Shahjahanpur, Saharanpur and Dehra Dun districts. These works were carried out before the floods and successfully resisted all attacks.

194. About 1,882 miles of avenues were maintained, while 49 miles of road were newly planted with trees by the Public Works department. Arboriculture.

195. The Ganges and the Gogra rivers were kept open for navigation throughout the year—331 miles of the former in the Allahabad, Mirzapur, Benares, Ghazipur and Ballia districts and 94 miles of the latter in the Ghazipur and Azamgarh districts. Navigation.

196. All Imperial works, except those in progress, were transferred from April 1, 1924, to the control of the Chief Engineer, Delhi. The new factory for the Postal workshop at Aligarh was the only important central work in hand. Good progress was made in its construction, Rs. 1.48 lakhs being spent. The extension of the cemetery at Mussoorie was completed during the year. Buildings.
(a) Central.

197. The maintenance of all residential buildings, except those occupied by members of Government and offices of the Public Works department, was transferred to the heads of the departments concerned. The expenditure on original works declined by Rs. 4.8 lakhs to Rs. 10.22 lakhs. Education buildings cost Rs. 1.31 lakhs—about Rs. 1.3 lakhs less than in the previous year. Expenditure on buildings for the land revenue department amounted to Rs. 1.11 lakhs, for the general administration department to Rs. 1.25 lakhs and for the police to Rs. 2.62 lakhs. Expenditure for the other departments did not exceed a lakh. The new treasury block at Bulandshahr was completed. Quarters for tahsildars were constructed in three tahsils; and alterations made in one. The building operations for the education department included two important works for the water and gas supply of the science laboratories of the Intermediate Colleges at Fyzabad and Jhansi, and the construction of a boarding house and superintendent's quarters for the model school at Jhansi. Good progress was made on the construction of a new munsif's court at Ghaziabad (Meerut district). Thirteen police stations involving an expenditure of Rs. 1.10 lakhs were under construction. Of these six were completed. The construction of (b) Provincial.

the new Shahjahanpur reserve police lines was finished at a cost of Rs 2 12 lakhs, and new police lines at Azamgarh, estimated to cost Rs. 2 32 lakhs, were begun. The laboratory for the Agriculture circle office at Shahjahanpur was completed, and work on the Cawnpore Agriculture College, which was suspended in 1923, was resumed. Considerable improvement was made on the construction of the Carpentry School at Allahabad, while the boarding house for the Benares Weaving Institute was completed.

Private works.

198 These consist of works of public utility (e.g., wells, schools, temples and *dharamshalas*) which are built from contributions made by private individuals. Such contributions amounted to over 35 lakhs during the year. A sum of Rs. 33,500 was contributed by the Maharaja of Mahmudabad towards the total purchase price (Rs 61,287) of a building in the Kaiserbagh at Lucknow, for the Lucknow public library, the balance of the cost being paid by the Government. A work of some interest was the building of a temple of Shri Vishnu Bhagwan at Gorakhpur intended to enshrine an image of Vishnu, discovered in Gorakhpur in 1914. The building was designed by the Consulting Architect.

Power: water and electricity.

199 The Electrical Inspector to Government prepared 75 estimates for electrical works, of which 30 were carried out. Nine Government buildings were connected to town supply mains. New underground cables for lighting the grounds of Government House, Lucknow, and the Taj Mahal in Agra were laid. Schemes were prepared to supply electricity to the Jhansi and Gorakhpur municipalities and that for its supply to Agra through the United Provinces Electric Supply Company was sanctioned. The power-house of the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation was completed.

The hydro-electric plant at Naini Tal continued to give satisfactory service. The generating and pumping plant of the Lucknow water-works was handed over to the municipal board. As to pilgrim centres, the usual arrangements were made for a temporary water-supply for the Magh Mela at Allahabad. A project for the supply of water and electricity at Hardwar was approved and public water-supply at Gola Gokaran Nath has been established. A project for reorganizing the water-supply of Allahabad has been submitted for sanction.

1924-25.]

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

81 Chapter IV.
PRODUC-
TION AND
DISTRIBU-
TION.

As a result of vigilant administration of the Indian Electricity Act and Rules there was only one accident from electrical shock, and that not fatal.

200 Further progress was made in carrying out the recommendations of the Reorganization and Economy Committees, which have effected a saving of Rs 3.70 lakhs during the last three years under the head "Establishment" alone. The offices of the Superintending Engineers of the first and second circles were amalgamated with that of the Chief Engineer and the combined office was transferred to Lucknow from Allahabad. A subordinate engineering service for the province was formed from May 1, 1924, on a time-scale of pay.

Reorgan-
ization
of the
Public
Works
department.

30. Co-operative Societies.

(See the report on Co-operative Societies for the year ending June 30, 1925.)

201 The co-operative movement made steady progress during the year. Societies increased in number and working capital in amount. The total capital indeed rose by Rs 7.4 lakhs (as against an increase of Rs 4.34 lakhs in the previous year) and stood at a little over 112 lakhs, of which as much as 52 per cent. represents the owned capital of banks and societies. The strength of the financial position is further illustrated by the fact that the reserve fund has risen to 46.8 per cent. of the liabilities in loans and deposits.

The widespread distress caused by the floods of September 1924 necessitated larger advances and greater leniency in recoveries. For this reason the proportion of arrears to the outstandings of central banks against working primary societies increased to 21.8 per cent. The real position, however, is more favourable for the central banks than this might suggest, as the percentage of total arrears to the total amount outstanding declined from 30.2 to 28.6. Liquidated societies repaid over Rs. 1.5 lakhs in principal to the central banks—the amount outstanding at the end of the year being Rs. 6.5 lakhs as compared with Rs. 7.5 lakhs of the previous year. The number of liquidated societies at the close of the year was 794 as against 856 of the previous year, and the amount due

from their members stood at 16 lakhs as against 17.5 lakhs in the previous year.

Agricultural societies, of which there are 5,678, naturally predominate. Non-agricultural societies only number 244. The membership of these primary societies increased by 10,667 to 155,149. Under the law members of societies of unlimited liability are allowed to receive dividends on their fully paid up shares after ten years. Some 1,500 unlimited liability societies thus became entitled during the year to declare dividends, but only about 600 were actually able to declare anything. A number of societies succeeded in reducing their rates of interest to members, and in some cases the central banks also reduced their own rates to primary societies.

Central societies.

202. The number of district and other central societies was the same (76) as in the previous year. The working capital rose by Rs. 3.88 lakhs to 85 lakhs. Owing to the floods advances increased by Rs. 4.5 lakhs and repayments fell by .84 lakh. Fluctuations in the price of yarn caused further loss to the Sandila Weaving Society, and this affected the total net profits of the year; but they still stood at the substantial figure of Rs. 1.28 lakhs, the latter excluding the figures brought forward from previous years. Several banks had to keep their balances idle, and it is obvious that the movement in the province is not in touch with the money market outside.

Agricultural societies.

203. The number increased from 5,445 to 5,678. The total membership was 140,476. Profits rose by .43 lakh to Rs. 2.76 lakhs. Advances to members increased by Rs. 5.8 lakhs, while collections from them decreased to the extent of Rs. .34 lakh, with the result that arrears increased by Rs. 2.24 lakhs. The arrears represented 32.4 per cent. of the total outstandings as against 32.1 per cent. of the previous year.

An arrangement made in the Agra district in the flooded areas deserves special mention. About 50 societies were formed and the district officer instead of giving out petty doles made over to them a sum of about Rs. 71,000 (out of the amount placed at his disposal for flood relief) to serve as a reserve fund to enable them to give loans to members at easy rates of interest.

204. The number increased from 228 to 244. The membership was 14,673 and the working capital Rs. 12.64 lakhs. Advances rose by Rs. 1.87 lakhs, while repayments improved by Rs. 1.05 lakhs. Arrears increased by Rs. .34 lakh and represented 11 per cent. of the total outstandings.

Non-Agri-
cultural
societies.

205 Non-credit societies have not been very prosperous, and three agricultural and five non-agricultural societies ceased to exist. Since the close of the year the numbers have been partially restored by the registration of six new societies, only one of which is agricultural, with the result that at the end of December 1925 there were thirty-two non-credit societies comprising three central, seven agricultural and twenty-two non-agricultural societies.

Non-credit
societies.

Of the central institutions, the Agriculture Supply Societies at Hardoi and Roorkee did useful work. The Hindustan Co-operative Stores, Cawnpore (non-agricultural), on the other hand, is practically moribund. With a few exceptions primary societies are not working satisfactorily and some may have to be closed. Most of the consumers' societies have worked at a loss. Of the two housing societies, the one at Bulandshahr is doing fairly well, while that at Cawnpore is in difficulties for want of funds.

206. There has been no change in the departmental staff which consists of the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, two Assistant Registrars and 27 Junior Assistant Registrars. The number of auditors was increased by five from April 1925 and a further increase is contemplated. As many as 1,507 societies remained unaudited.

Cost of
supervi-
sion and
working.

Government expenditure rose from Rs. 1.87 lakhs to Rs. 2 lakhs. The cost to societies increased from Rs. 3.58 lakhs to Rs. 3.96 lakhs.

CHAPTER V.—PUBLIC REVENUE AND FINANCE.

31. Central revenues.

Provincial
contribution.

207. Provincial contribution to the revenues of the Central Government in the year 1924-25 was the same, namely, Rs. 240 lakhs. For the current year, however, the Government of India reduced it to Rs. 184 lakhs.

Income-
tax.

208. In spite of a slight rise in the number of assesses from 25,284 to 25,302, receipts from income-tax amounted to only Rs. 76.58 lakhs as against Rs. 87.61 lakhs in the preceding year. Income-tax yielded Rs. 59.87 lakhs and super-tax Rs. 16.72 lakhs. These figures do not include the tax paid by the local Government on account of the United Provinces Development Loan which amounted to about Rs. 2.28 lakhs. The fall was mainly due to unfavourable business conditions. Under the head "Business" alone the receipts fell by 11.9 per cent.

32. Provincial revenues.

(See the Accountant-General's review of Provincial Accounts for 1924-25.)

(Values have been expressed in terms of lakhs of rupees and of decimals of a lakh.)

Comparison with the
previous
year.

209. The total receipts (excluding debt heads) of the year 1924-25, as compared with those of the previous year, declined by 31.61—from 1,271.14 to 1,239.53. Noticeable decreases occurred under Land revenue (21.13), Excise (4.0), Stamps (1.01), Irrigation (32.94), Public Health (1.32) and Miscellaneous (1.04). There were counterbalancing increases under Interest (6.4), Administration of Justice (1.14), Agriculture (4.9), Industries (9.6), Miscellaneous departments (5.1), Civil works (1.42), Superannuation (2.49) and receipts from Central Government (1.12). The fall under Land revenue was almost entirely due to the floods of September 1924 which necessitated suspension and remission of revenue on

an extensive scale. The decrease under Irrigation was due partly to the favourable winter rains of the previous year which reduced the irrigation demand for the *rabi* crop and partly to the floods of the year under report which seriously damaged certain important canals. The Court Fees (Amendment) Act ceased to have effect from May 1, 1924, leading to a reduction of stamp revenue.

The expenditure, excluding debt heads, dropped by 5 01— from 1,287 50 to 1,282 49. The main variations were increases of 6 77 under Interest on irrigation works, 12 26 under Education, 6 71 under Civil works, 5 11 under Famine relief, 4 67 under expenditure in England; while decreases occurred under Land revenue (1 45), Excise (47), Productive irrigation works (1 07), Interest on ordinary debt (1 48), Jails (1 02), Industries (83), Stationery and Printing (1 48) and Forest (6 67). Reduction in expenditure was in almost all cases due to economical management, all the more necessary because of the additional burden imposed on the province by the floods. The Lee Commission proposals also affected the figures of a number of heads. The increase under Civil works was partly due to the payment of 4 00 on account of centage charges due to district boards and partly to the charges on account of damage to roads and bridges caused by the floods. The increase under Famine relief was also due to the disastrous floods.

210. The budget for 1924-25 anticipated under revenue heads a total receipt of 1,262 81. The actual figure, however, amounted to 1,239 53. There were large drops under Land revenue (21 04), Excise (14 56), Stamps (4 77) and Irrigation (20 80). There were counterbalancing increases under Forest (5 40), Interest (2 70) and Transfer from the Famine Insurance Fund (21 25). The main causes of the serious fall in revenue have already been mentioned. The chief among them were the floods of September 1924. Excise revenue declined as a result of a further decrease in the consumption of excisable articles. The transfer from the Famine Insurance Fund was really an account adjustment and does not represent additional revenue.

The budget provided for an expenditure of 1,254 69, but the actual figure rose to 1,282 49. Large increases occurred under Interest on Irrigation works (49 45), Interest on

ordinary debt (8·25), Administration of Justice (2·80), Police (1·75), Public Health (3·26), Civil works (6·95) and Famine relief (5·89). There were decreases under Irrigation works financed from Famine Insurance Fund (10·41), General Administration (1·93), Transfer to Famine Insurance Fund (27·03) and expenditure in England (2·32). The variations under Interest on Irrigation works, Irrigation works financed from Famine Insurance Fund and Transfer to Famine Insurance Fund are again due to account adjustments. The causes of increased expenditure under Civil works and Famine relief were mainly due to the floods of September. The increased expenditure under Administration of Justice was due to the establishment of a number of temporary courts during the year, and that under Police was due mainly to the operations against the Bhartus. An account adjustment caused increased expenditure under Public Health also.

Debt
heads.

211. The total receipts amounted to 188·30 and capital expenditure to 214·71.

The budget
for 1925-26.

212. The budget, as originally presented, differed substantially from the one which was passed. First the Government of India reduced the amount of provincial contribution by 56·17; and this made it unnecessary to borrow 43·00 which was designed to cover an anticipated deficit. Secondly, the Legislative Council refused to vote expenditure amounting to 6·01, and also rejected the proposal to extend the period of the United Provinces Stamp (Amendment) Act, which was to have yielded a revenue of 7·00. These changes resulted in a decrease of receipts of 50·00 and a decrease of expenditure of 62·18, giving a net increase of 12·18 in the closing balance, which then stood at 39·17, of which 11·92 belonged to the Famine Insurance Fund and 27·25 was available for general purposes.

The financial position at the end of 1925-26 is satisfactory. According to the revised estimates for that year receipts exceed the original estimates by 17·44. Disbursements under civil heads are higher by 3·52, but are less by 26·11 under debt heads. The net result is that the closing balance is estimated to rise from 39·17 to 79·20. The highest increase in receipts has occurred under stamps which amount to 11·00, indicating a gratifying rise in the volume of trade. Land

revenue is in excess by 3·36 and offers a striking testimony to the recuperative powers of the province after the damage caused by the floods and to the adequacy of the measures of relief adopted.

33. Stamps.

(See note on Stamp Revenue for the year ending March 1925.)

213. Stamp revenue for the year fell from Rs. 1,77·73 lakhs to Rs. 1,76·29 lakhs. Judicial (court-fee) stamps accounted for Rs. 1,37·21 lakhs and non-judicial stamps for Rs. 39·08 lakhs. Receipts and charges.

214. Receipts under judicial stamps declined by Rs. 1·67 lakhs. The United Provinces Court Fees (Amendment) Act of 1923 ceased to operate from May 1, 1924, and the fall would have been larger but for the fact that landholders in the Agra Province filed a large number of ejectment suits in the rainy season of 1924 in anticipation of the amendment of the Agra Tenancy Act. The figures for the different divisions varied—Meerut, Benares, Gorakhpur and Kumaun showed small increases and the other divisions a decrease. Judicial stamps.

215. Receipts from non-judicial stamps rose by Rs. 23,000, but this was entirely due to increase in the contribution of the Government of India for unified stamps. Apart from this contribution the receipts actually fell by Rs. 94,000. General slackness of trade which affected income-tax receipts caused a fall here also. Non-judicial stamps.

216. Expenditure decreased slightly from Rs. 4·50 lakhs to Rs. 4·34 lakhs. Expenditure.

217. The number of stamp vendors decreased from 3,326 to 3,015. But the discount allowed to them remained about the same as in the previous year, namely, Rs. 2·19 lakhs. The reduction in the number of vendors has thus improved their average income. Facilities for sale of stamps.

218. The number of cases of infringement of the stamp law was 4,266 as against 3,586 in the previous year, and the amount realized in duty and penalty was Rs. 57,442 as against Rs. 48,634. Insufficiently stamped or unstamped instruments.

Prosecutions rose from 840 to 967. The amount of fine imposed increased from Rs. 4,256 to Rs. 6,072.

34. Excise.

(See report of the Excise Administration for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

Important events.

219. During the year the Government summoned a conference of non-official gentlemen to advise on various questions affecting excise. The conference has made a number of important recommendations which, in general, support the present policy. Many of their recommendations have been accepted. The United Provinces Opium Smoking Act, an important measure imposing severe restrictions on the smoking of *chandu*, was passed by the Legislative Council. Most of the powers exercised so far by the Board of Revenue have been delegated to the Excise Commissioner. Seven more licensing boards were established. During the year the farming system for the supply and vend of hemp drugs came to an end, so that the contract supply system of hemp drugs now obtains in all districts. The duty on *charas* was raised by Rs. 20 a seer.

Consumption.

220. The consumption of all intoxicants except foreign liquor and *ganja* once more decreased. The excise policy of the Government prescribing heavy prices and effecting reduction in the number of shops and hours of sale is chiefly responsible for the decline, though the influence of caste *panchayats* and the distress caused by the floods of October 1924 in the western districts have also to some extent contributed to the fall.

The issues of country spirit dropped by 7·1 per cent. to 633,807 imperial gallons. Figures of sale of foreign liquor show that while the consumption of wines has fallen by 35·5 per cent. to 14,081 gallons, there is a rise in the sale of beer by 12·5 per cent. and of spirits by 26·2 per cent. The issues of *charas* have declined by 28·8 per cent. and of *bhang* by 3·6 per cent. *Ganja* shows a rise of 23 per cent. and opium a fall of 3·4 per cent.

Country spirit.

221. The area under the contract supply system as also under the farming and outstill systems remained unchanged.

Duties and retail prices were the same as in the previous year, except in the *Tarai* portion of the Naini Tal district where they were slightly raised to compensate for an increase in the sale strength from 35 to 25 U.P. The scale of license fees under the surcharge system was raised. The number of shops in the contract supply areas declined from 2,467 to 2,187 (—11·3 per cent.). The number of out-stills also fell by 6·2 per cent. from 144 to 135. The average area served by each rural shop established under the contract supply system has expanded from 42·60 to 48·29 square miles. Hours of sale were the same as in the latter half of the previous year—noon to sunset in rural areas and noon to 7 or 8 p.m. in other areas. All the shops in Benares city sold spirit in sealed bottles for consumption “ off ” the premises. This system has been welcomed by the licensing boards and the public generally, and arrangements are being made to extend it to other parts of the province. The experiment of sale in open vessels for consumption “ off ” the premises in Lucknow and Etawah has worked satisfactorily.

222. Permanent licences declined from 805 to 786. There has been some increase—from 201,000 gallons to 226,000 gallons—in the consumption of beer. The rise need cause no alarm, beer (especially of the lighter brands which are now chiefly in demand) being far less intoxicating than any spirit. Europeans are, of course, the chief consumers. It is, however, notable that in certain big towns Indians now prefer beer to country spirit. But it is unfortunate that the consumption of foreign spirit has increased from 60,000 to 75,000 gallons, involving as it does the substitution of noxious brands (mostly imported from Java, Germany and France) for country spirit.

Foreign
liquor.

223. The system of administering the *tarai* revenue remained the same. For the first time in recent years, there has been a slight fall in licence fees. This was caused by the heavy floods which affected the *tari* produce adversely. The tree tax system continued in the Saddar and Bansgaon tahsils of the Gorakhpur district. The total number of shops decreased from 2,002 to 1,863. A further closure of 30 shops has been sanctioned from October 1, 1925.

Tari.

224. In the previous year all except 16 districts were under the contract supply system. The farming system has

Hemp
drugs.

ceased in all the 16 districts, and now the contract supply system and the graduated surcharge system of licence fees obtains throughout the province. The consumption of *charas* fell from 37,500 seers to 26,700 seers and of *bhang* from 120,000 seers to 115,600 seers. The figures of *ganja* consumption record a rise of 23 per cent. from 8,000 to 9,800 seers, the increase was chiefly due to the poor quality of *charas* supplied during the year, which induced many of those addicted to its use to take *ganja*. The number of shops was reduced from 2,343 to 2,075.

Opium.

225. The recorded consumption of opium continued to fall, the issue figures showing a decline from 24,000 seers to 23,300 seers. This is largely due to high retail prices, which have probably brought about a greater use of crude opium. The number of shops declined from 901 to 871. The graduated surcharge system of licence fees remained in force.

Excise
crime.

226. Prosecutions under the Excise Act have greatly increased and number 2,622 as against 1,864 in the previous year. Prosecutions relating to liquor have risen from 1,200 to 1,735. Cases of illicit manufacture of liquor are reported from all except 5 districts—Allahabad, Rae Bareilly and Partabgarh being most prominent. This offence is a direct and inevitable result of the high price of illicit liquor. Cocaine prosecutions number 264 as compared with 179 of the previous year. They are reported from 19 districts, being highest in Cawnpore, Benares, Meerut, Allahabad, Bareilly, Lucknow and Saharanpur. The quantity of cocaine seized amounted to 297 ounces as against 92 ounces in the previous year. Prosecutions for drunkenness have slightly risen from 732 to 808. Cases under the Opium Act have also increased from 269 to 359, though the quantity of opium seized dropped from 520 to 185 seers. It is believed that owing to the high price of government opium, the consumption of crude opium in poppy-growing districts is increasing. Cases of opium smuggling declined from 66 to 59.

Local
bodies.

227. Licensing boards were constituted in seven more municipalities—Farrukhabad-cum-Fatehgarh, Dehra Dun, Jaunpur, Muttra, Etawah, Budaun and Hathras. As in the previous year, the licensing boards did useful work and again managed to reduce the number of shops. Assistant excise commissioners ceased to work as secretaries of the

board from October 1, 1924, and were replaced by excise officers. The technical work of the inspection and supervision of distilleries and warehouses is still in the hands of the department.

228. The total receipts declined from Rs 12,701 to 12,483 lakhs. The fall is due to the general decline in the use of intoxicants, country spirit being responsible for a fall of Rs. 2.9 lakhs, opium for .42 lakh, *tari* for .09 lakh and foreign liquor for .61 lakh. Receipts from hemp drugs increased by Rs 1.68 lakhs. Receipts.

229. The total expenditure amounted to Rs 5.94 lakhs (being 4.8 per cent. of excise revenue) as against 6.44 lakhs (5.1 per cent. of excise revenue). The post of the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Allahabad, was abolished from April 1, 1924, the excise administration of the Allahabad revenue division having been made over to the district officers. Ten new posts of excise inspector were sanctioned from April 1, 1925. These posts are being filled gradually. The post of Deputy Commissioner of Excise remained in abeyance. Expenditure and staff.

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

35. Vital statistics.

(See the report of the Director of Public Health for the year ending December 31, 1924.)

(Rates for births and deaths are per thousand of the population.)

General.

230. Plague and cholera combined to make the year less healthy than its predecessor; but 1923 was the healthiest year known for a generation and some falling off was only to be expected.

The provincial birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 6.43 as against 12.67 in the previous year. The only districts which did not contribute to this result were Farrukhabad, Banda, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Naini Tal and Sultanpur. The total number of reported births was 1,575,310 and of reported deaths 1,283,872.

The system of reporting births and deaths in rural areas has always been unsatisfactory and has been made more so by drastic reductions in the numbers of village chaukidars, who are responsible for making the reports. A change recently introduced in town areas transfers the work of reporting from the police to the town area staff who will now follow the system in vogue in municipalities.

Births.

231. The birth-rate declined from 36.04 to 34.72. As usual more males were born than females, the proportion (112.47 males to every 100 females) being about the same as in the previous year. The highest birth-rate was recorded in November and the lowest in May. Bijnor and Rae Bareilly continued to furnish the highest and lowest birth-rates respectively.

Deaths.

232. The death-rate for the province was 28.29 as compared with 23.37 in 1923 and 33.37, the average for the previous five years. The male death-rate was 28.66 and the female death-rate 27.89. The highest death-rate was recorded in April and the lowest in February. As usual, fevers were responsible for the majority of deaths. The

highest death-rate (42·15) was returned by Farrukhabad district, which suffered much from cholera and respiratory diseases as well as from the usual fevers. Gonda continues to enjoy the distinction of returning the lowest death-rate, which in the year under report was 13·66.

The highest death-rate in municipalities and notified areas was recorded in Kosi (106·32), Jalesar in Etah district (71·84), and Pilkhua in Meerut district (69·18). The high mortality figures of Kosi and Pilkhua were largely due to plague and fever, while at Jalesar fever was mainly responsible.

233. Infantile mortality was slightly higher than that of the preceding two years, but was less than that of 1921 or the decennial average for 1911—1920. The death-rate for infants of one year and under was 217·79. The average death-rate between 1901 and 1910 was 255 and between 1911 and 1920 232·3. The rate for males was 231·27 and for females 203·51. The highest death-rates were returned by Farrukhabad (275·47) and Cawnpore (255·71), in both of which the high rates were chiefly due to fevers. Infantile mortality

The death-rate in municipalities continued higher than in rural areas and stood at 274·58 (as against 267·01 in 1923), but probably this is partly accounted for by the more efficient system of registering vital statistics in urban areas. Cawnpore as usual has the worst record, having returned an infantile death-rate of 476·90. High infantile mortality rates were also returned by Etawah (399·91), Tilhar (379·31) and Farrukhabad (378·69). Malaria, pneumonia, tetanus, convulsions, exhaustion and malnutrition took a heavy toll. The lowest infantile mortality rate was recorded in Shikohabad in the Mainpuri district (70·46).

As in the previous three years, the mortality among infants was greatest in the month of October and lowest in March. In the latter month the number of deaths was about half of that in October.

234. The number of entries of births and deaths tested by the vaccination staff, local authorities and Assistant Directors of Public Health was 1,007,977, 340,913 and 2,086 respectively. The paucity of verifications by the Assistant Directors of Public Health is due to their preoccupation with other duties. Verification of statistics.

The total number of deaths, the cause of which was verified by qualified medical authorities, was 3,194. Two hundred and ninety-nine of these were due to pneumonia, 210 to phthisis, 189 to dysentery, 76 to cholera, 73 to other tubercular diseases, 67 to malaria, 60 to all other infectious diseases, 38 to tetanus and 37 to plague.

Diseases:
fevers.

235. The death-rate from fevers rose from 17·19 to 20·89, as against an average of 29·17 during the preceding 10 years (1914—1923). The total number of deaths registered was 947,807. The largest number was recorded in November and the lowest in February. Deaths attributed to malaria numbered 824,428, to enteric fever 13,652, to measles 11,881, to relapsing fever 186, to kala-azar 104 and to other fevers 97,556.

Plague.

236. Deaths from plague numbered 56,210. The incidence was most severe in March and lightest in August. The highest number of deaths (14,518) occurred in Meerut district, while the death-rate was highest in Bulandshahr district, being 12·16. The districts of Mainpuri, Etah, Bareilly, Naini Tal, Almora and Garhwal enjoyed complete immunity from plague.

Respiratory
diseases.

237. Deaths attributed to respiratory diseases numbered 27,412 as compared with 26,108 in 1923. Mortality was highest in November and the lowest in July, as was the case also in the preceding two years. Hamirpur and Lucknow retained the first and second positions which they occupied last year, the death-rates being 8·93 and 3·68 respectively. Dehra Dun was third with 2·76. High mortality was also recorded in Benares and Agra where the death-rate stood at 2·37 and 2·26 respectively.

Among districts returning low mortality figures the most conspicuous were Kheri (·01) and Bara Banki. Rae Bareilly, Basti and Muzaffarnagar (·04 each).

Dysentery
and
diarrhoea.

238. The total number of deaths recorded rose from 10,878 to 11,989. As in the preceding year, September returned the highest, and February the lowest number of deaths. Hill districts generally returned high mortality figures. Garhwal with a death-rate of 4·18 was as usual an easy first, being followed by Dehra Dun with 1·24, Benares with 1·00 and Almora with ·99.

Cholera.

239. The incidence of cholera was heavy, the number of deaths rising from 2,591 to 67,000 and the death-rate from '06 to 1'48. The districts which suffered most were Azamgarh with a death-rate of 5'54, Banda with 5'47, Jaunpur with 5'45 and Gorakhpur with 4'49. Cholera was introduced into the province from Bengal and Bihar in February, 1924, and the adjoining districts of Gorakhpur, Azamgarh and Jaunpur were infected. About twelve tons of permanganate of potash were supplied to various districts under the cholera scheme. The special cholera scheme in force in the districts of the Kumaun division worked well. The special experimental cholera scheme in force on the pilgrim route in the Garhwal district continued in operation in 1924.

240. The total number of deaths rose from 747 with a death-rate of '02 to 2,724 with a death-rate of '06. Of the 2,722 deaths, some 770 occurred among children under one year of age, 1,314 between 1 to 10 years, and the rest among adults. The highest mortality (666) was returned in June, and the lowest (50) in January. Among the districts returning high mortality figures, Lucknow was the most conspicuous, with a death-rate of '32 followed by Agra with ('27), Aligarh ('21), Bareilly ('19) and Allahabad ('16).

Small-pox.

241. Deaths under this head numbered 20,992. Of these 1,903 were suicides. Wounds or accidents accounted for 14,224; snakes and wild beasts 4,577 and rabies 288.

Deaths
from
injuries.

36. Medical Services.

(See the report on Civil Hospitals and dispensaries for the year ending December 31, 1924.)

242. The reduction in the number of travelling dispensaries, which had begun in the previous year, continued. The number of dispensaries working during the year fell by 37 to 595. There was, however, an actual reduction of 28 only, nine dispensaries having been transferred from the control of the medical to that of the Public Health department. The number of dispensaries actually brought under reduction was made up of 30 district board travelling dispensaries and six other minor dispensaries counterbalanced by the opening of eight new ones.

Number of
hospitals
and dis-
pensaries.

The utility of travelling dispensaries during non-epidemic periods had been questioned for some time. The Government, therefore, gave district boards the option of closing them on condition that the money thus saved would be otherwise spent on medical relief. This resulted in the closing down of the 30 dispensaries mentioned above.

**Extent of
medical
relief.**

243 The closing of a number of travelling dispensaries might have been expected to reduce the number of patients treated, and this actually happened the previous year. In 1924, however, the number rose, in spite of the increased reductions, to nearly 64 lakhs, giving an increase of 1.38 lakhs. The rise was shared by all classes of dispensaries, but was most marked in the case of non-aided ones, which alone were responsible for an increase of 1.05 lakhs. There was a slight decrease in attendance at the general dispensaries. But this was more than made up by an increase of over 33,000 at female dispensaries, which occurred both in the indoor and outdoor sections. There was a remarkable increase of nearly 38,000 in the number of Muslim patients, though there were decreases in the attendance of other classes. The number of children treated showed a large increase.

The number of surgical operations performed in hospitals and dispensaries fell by about 12,000.

One hundred and forty patients were admitted to the King Edward Sanatorium at Bhowali, of whom 42 showed definite improvement. The condition of 27 patients was stationary, while in the case of 29 the disease was arrested.

Six hundred and thirty-eight and 212 cases of tuberculosis were treated in the outdoor and indoor departments respectively of the King George's Medical College, Lucknow. These figures are slightly less than those of the previous year. But the need of a separate tuberculosis hospital is keenly felt.

**Medical
training.**

244. Fifty students were admitted to the King George's Medical College as against 48 in the previous year. The number of students on the rolls (including 8 of the D.P.H. class) was 289, compared with 211 of the previous year. Thirty-one students passed the final examination for the M.B.B.S. degree, while one passed the examination of the D.P.H. class.

In the men's medical school, Agra, the number of students civil and military, declined by 7 per cent. Enrolment

was 447 as against 459 in the previous year. On hundred students passed the final qualifying examination as against 92 in the previous year.

In the women's medical school the number of students rose from 70 to 78 Twelve students passed out

245. The income from hospitals and dispensaries dropped General.
from Rs 28 99 lakhs to Rs 26 11 lakhs, and the expenditure from Rs 29 14 lakhs to Rs 27 52 lakhs. Contributions from local boards fell from Rs 16·70 lakhs to Rs. 15·12 lakhs, but voluntary subscriptions rose from Rs. 1 23 lakhs to Rs. 1·33 lakhs.

The cadre of the Provincial Subordinate Medical Service officers was reduced from 560 to 481, owing chiefly to the closing of 30 travelling dispensaries and to the transfer of 26 dispensaries to the control of district boards Owing to financial difficulties a number of district boards was unable to pay Provincial Subordinate Medical Service officers at the revised scale of pay sanctioned by Government The Government accordingly allowed them the concession of staffing a few branch dispensaries by men on lower salaries, provided that their total expenditure on medical relief was not less than the amount spent prior to the revision of the pay of the Provincial Subordinate Medical Service officers Seven district boards took advantage of this concession

A number of district boards has also opened Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries.

37. Public Health Services.

(See the reports of the Director of Public Health for the year ending December 31, 1924, and of the Superintending Engineer, Public Health department, for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

246. The Board made grants to the extent of Rs 7·21 Board of
lakhs during the year. The chief allotments were Rs. 1·5 Public
lakhs for the Lucknow water-works reorganization scheme, Health.
·97 lakh for the Muttra sewage disposal scheme, ·93 lakh for rural sanitary and minor sanitary works and ·82 lakh for special assistance to pilgrim centres. A sum of ·65 lakh was

given for an infectious diseases hospital at Benares Rupees 19,000 were given to cover half the cost of small sanitary improvements effected through the agency of village panchayats, the other half being contributed by the panchayats themselves. Government also advanced loans of Rs 6.74 lakhs, including Rs 3.06 lakhs for the Lucknow water-works reorganization scheme. Rs 2 lakhs for the Bhilai pumping station at Mussoorie and 1 lakh for the water supply scheme at Dehra Dun.

Director of
Public
Health.

247 The Assistant Directors of Public Health inspected the sanitary and medical arrangements at all the important fairs and religious gatherings, none of which suffered from any serious outbreak of disease. The department contributed to the relief operations started after the disastrous floods of September 1924. It deputed travelling dispensaries to the affected areas, and through them distributed quinine of the value of Rs 7,000. It helped local authorities to take precautionary measures against the spread of epidemic disease and to rebuild model villages and houses in the affected areas. Vigorous anti-malarial work was even more successful than in the previous year, especially in submontane tracts. Work was concentrated at Banbassa (the headworks of the Sarda canal situated in a typical *Tarai* tract), where the working season has in consequence been lengthened by 2 or 3 months. Drainage was extended and quinine prophylaxis was systematically employed, to the great benefit of the labourers' health. Malarial surveys were made in *Tarai* tracts. Attention was specially directed to small irrigation channels which by the neglect of cultivators had turned into breeding-grounds of mosquitoes. The value of quinine sold rose from Rs 7,784 to Rs 14,202. The plague branch also continued to do useful work. Forty-five thousand four hundred and thirty inoculations were performed, of which 5,152 were performed by special health officers and 19,165 by travelling dispensaries. The Forest department and the Court of Wards also maintained travelling dispensaries.

Samples of milk, *ghi*, butter, flour and other articles were analysed to detect adulteration. The provisions of the Prevention of Adulteration Act were extended to the municipalities of Hapur, Hathras, Najibabad, Ghaziabad and Baraut in respect of certain common articles of food.

248 The branch under the Superintending Engineer inspected the water-supply and drainage works of the provinces. The sum of Rs 5.61 lakhs was spent on construction (original works) and Rs 13.84 lakhs on maintenance and repairs of open water-works. The cost of the department rose slightly to Rs 3.69 lakhs. Original works included the Lucknow water-supply improvement project (the first instalment of which was completed in the year under report), the Naini Tal Hydro-Electric and water-supply scheme which was completed, and the Fyzabad water-supply scheme which was also practically finished.

Superin-
tending
Engineer,
Public
Health
department.

249. The district health scheme was extended to two districts in the year and in March, 1925 was in operation in five districts—Gorakhpur, Basti, Azamgarh, Fyzabad and Gonda. The district health staff consists of a Health Officer and his assistants, one sanitary inspector for each tahsil, together with one or more travelling dispensaries and the vaccination establishment. Health Officers were engaged chiefly in fighting the annual epidemics of plague and cholera and in supervising the vaccination establishment. The health staff besides carrying on the routine work of inspecting vital statistics also undertook hygiene propaganda in towns and villages.

Medical
Officers of
Health.

Special Health Officers also worked in the Ghazipur, Ballia and Jaunpur districts.

Municipal boards are also showing increasing interest in the subject and some have organized Health departments and have appointed Health Officers. There are still, however, many boards which have not realized their responsibility for the health of the public under their control.

250 Of the two candidates for the diploma of Public Health one passed the final qualifying examination. Eight new students joined the course in October, 1924.

Health
training and
education.

Four candidates were completely successful in the examination of the Licentiate of Public Health and nine new students joined the course in July, 1924.

The present sanitary inspectors' and apprentice sanitary inspectors' classes were started in October, 1924 with 26 and 85 students respectively. The examination of candidates who had joined the sanitary inspectors' classes in October, 1923

was conducted in February, 1924. Twenty-four passed the apprentice sanitary inspectors' examination. Five candidates passed the examination for chief sanitary inspectorship.

Fifty-five undergraduates passed the final M.B.B.S. (Part I) in Public Health.

The Hygiene Publicity Bureau continued useful propagandist work both in towns and villages (especially in the districts affected by epidemics) and at religious festivals and baby shows.

Child
welfare and
maternity-

251. "Baby weeks" which were again held in nearly every district have stimulated interest in the work of this important branch of public health. Allahabad, Pilibhit and Bareilly are still foremost in this and have arranged for the attendance of their trained maternity and child welfare staff at a large number of maternity cases. A new centre of maternity and child welfare was established at Dehra Dun. A maternity ward was built at Nawabganj (Gonda). The training of *dais* continued, and several towns adopted a scheme for training a superior class of midwives. Eleven midwives passed the State Board examination. A class for *dais* was opened in Rae Bareilly.

Civil
sanitary
works.

252. The chief sanitary works are the water-works of Benares, Lucknow, Cawnpore, Agra, Allahabad, Mirzapur, Muttra, Meerut, Dehra Dun, Mussoorie and Naini Tal. The water-works at Lucknow flushed 199 miles of drains daily as compared with 117, 93 and 71 miles at Cawnpore, Benares and Agra respectively.

Benares continues to return the highest figure (36.7 gallons) of consumption of water per head and was followed by Cawnpore (31 gallons), Agra (24.1), Allahabad (23.8), Mussoorie (20.4) and Muttra (18.2).

No municipal board in the province could find large sums of money for new sanitary works. The Shahjahanpur board, however, spent Rs. 30,000 on a market and slaughter-houses. The boards of Soron and Jhansi spent about ten thousand each, the former on the improvement of a tank and the latter on a water-works scheme. The infectious diseases hospital of Muttra was equipped during the year.

38. Vaccination.

*(See notes on Vaccination for the year ending
March 31, 1925.)*

253. The number of persons vaccinated increased by 29,314 to 1,296,756. The rise was shared by 37 out of 48 districts of the province. Gorakhpur was conspicuous with an increase of 4,925, followed by Azamgarh, Farrukhabad and Meerut. The number of persons vaccinated declined in 11 districts, the decrease being most marked in Sultanpur where the fall was attributed to the slackness of the staff. The number of persons successfully vaccinated was 26.68 per thousand of population against 25.57 in the previous year. Of primary vaccinations, 95.21 were successful.

Number of
vaccinations.

254. The total number of vaccinations inspected by Assistant Directors of Public Health and District Superintendents of Vaccination (Civil Surgeons) rose from 145,559 to 154,799 and by Assistant Superintendents of Vaccination and other inspecting officers from 550,034 to 580,423.

Inspection of
vaccinations.

255. Lymph sufficient to vaccinate 2,266,693 persons was issued from the Provincial Bovine Lymph Dépôt, Patwa Danger (district Naini Tal). The manufacture and supply of lymph were carried on as usual. Expenditure incurred on manufacture was slightly in excess of the sale-proceeds.

Lymph.

256. Supervision of vaccination work was carried on by four Assistant Directors of Public Health and the District Superintendents of Vaccination. The number of Assistant Superintendents employed was the same (49) as in the previous year, while that of vaccinators declined from 905 to 881. The total cost of establishment fell from Rs. 4.63 to Rs. 4.61 lakhs. The average number of vaccinations performed by each vaccinator rose from 1,400 to 1,472. The cost per case vaccinated was four annas nine pies, about the same as in the previous year.

Staff and
cost.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

39. Education.

(See the report on Public Instruction for the year ending March 31, 1925)

A. General: 257 The province made good progress during the year. The total number of educational institutions increased by 787 to 23,154 and of scholars by 41,653 to 1,192,415.

The percentage of scholars to population was 2·62 (as against 2·53 in the previous year), the percentage of males being 4·57 and of females only 0·48. While the number of Hindus under instruction increased by 3·19 per cent, that of Muslims rose by 5·91.

Expenditure and income.

258. Expenditure rose by 2·34 lakhs and stood at Rs. 303·85 lakhs. Of this Government contributed 56·7 per cent. (as against 53·9 in the previous year). The income from fees increased, but there was a heavy fall in contributions from boards and in income from other sources. There is no doubt that greater help should be given by the public in the form both of enhanced fees and of more liberal benefactions for educational objects.

B. University education:
Number of University students.

259. The number of students in the various faculties or departments of the Universities, which rose by 739 to 4,955, was as follows :—

Faculties or departments	Allahabad.	Benares.	Aligarh	Lucknow.
Arts ...	448	} *1,364	689	{ 321
Science ...	274			
Law ...	302			
Medicine ...	...	140	103	334
Commerce ...	14	...	...	239
Education ...	...	40	49	72
Engineering ...	...	402	...	...
Total ...	1,038	1,946	841	1,130

* This includes 617 intermediate class students.

260 The number of candidates completely successful in degree examinations was as follows :—

Examina-
tions for
degrees.

Degree.	Allahabad	Benares.	Aligarh.	Lucknow.
<i>Arts and Science—</i>				
D.Sc. ...	...	1	..	..
M.A. ...	82	14	70	45
M.Sc. ..	35	8	7	10
B.A. (Honours)	..	4	7	21
B.Sc. (Honours)	...	2	9	7
B.A. (Pass)	272	140	204	73
B.Sc. (Pass)	132	39	43	34
<i>Law—</i>				
LL.B. ...	195	34	9	120
<i>Medicine—</i>				
M.B., B.S.	...	...	..	25
<i>Commerce—</i>				
B.Com. .	15	...	.	19
<i>Education—</i>				
B.E., B.T. and L.P.	61	27	49	...
<i>Engineering—</i>				
B.Sc Eng.	...	...	...	..

In the Roorkee College examinations 29 candidates obtained the diploma of Bachelor of Civil Engineering. Twenty ladies passed Arts and Science examinations—4 M.A., 1 M.Sc., 14 B.A. and 1 B.Sc., of whom five were private candidates. A lady obtained the degree of LL.M., while another got the medical degree of M.B., B.S.

261. The number of research scholars rose from 8 to 17 M.A. classes in Urdu and Hindi, Indian Philosophy and Ancient Indian History were opened during the year. The popularity of the training corps has induced the University to recommend an increase in the strength of the corps. The patriotic gift of the late Lieut.-Col. Kamta Prasad of Rs. 50,000 enabled the University to found two research scholarships for the chemical analysis of Indian medicinal herbs.

Progress of
the year:
Allahabad.

262. The teaching staff was strengthened by the appointment of highly qualified Professors in Mathematics, Philosophy, Indian Philosophy, Indian Economics, Zoology and also of a number of Assistant Professors and demonstrators. The Ayurvedic College made good progress—the *rasayan shala* was completed and a hospital with 100 beds was started. Military training is much in demand and the two platoons

Benares.

maintained by the University are reported to be inadequate. Research work was carried on in several departments, both in Arts and Science.

Aligarh.

263. A new department for Geography was created, the total number of departments being 19. There was considerable pressure on hostel accommodation.

Lucknow.

264. Steps were taken for instituting diplomas in Persian, Arabic and Teaching and the degrees of Master and Doctor of Laws. Urdu and Hindi were recognized as subjects for the B A pass degree. Hostel accommodation was extended. The strength of the University battalion was raised.

**Thomason
College of
Engineering.**

265. The total number of students increased from 178 to 200. Revised courses of study in steel and masonry structures and reinforced concrete theory were introduced. Students are encouraged to undergo a course of military training. A committee was appointed to examine the courses of study and to report how far economies could be effected. The committee has since submitted its report to Government.

**Associated
Colleges.**

266. The degree colleges at Agra, Meerut, Bareilly, Cawnpore and Gorakhpur associated with the Allahabad University on its external side made good progress. Enrolment increased from 746 to 893. These colleges aim at attaining the University standard in teaching. Each one has its own magazine, students' union, training corps, athletic association and tutorial system. The Bareilly College was granted association for the B.Sc. degree.

**Oriental
institutions.**

267. The number of scholars in the Sanskrit College of Benares rose from 399 to 436. The number of recognized Sanskrit pathshalas increased from 431 to 473 and the number of scholars from 5,000 to 5,600. Two thousand three hundred and one students passed the various Sanskrit examinations conducted by the department. The scholars in the aided Arabic Madrasas numbered 7,300 as against 7,275 in the previous year. Of 423 candidates who appeared at the various Arabic and Persian examinations conducted by the department, 223 passed. The Ulmas have at last begun to take their duties seriously.

**Secondary
education.**

268. The number of institutions rose by 23 (two English High schools, three English Middle schools and eighteen Vernacular schools) to 824, the latter figure, including 26

Intermediate colleges Enrolment, which increased by 5,232, was 111,054. Expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 2·57 lakhs and stood at Rs. 62·79 lakhs.

The number of Intermediate Colleges was the same as last year, i.e., 26, but enrolment increased by 410 to 3,546.

Expenditure amounted to Rs. 12·74 lakhs being Rs. 50 lakh more than in the previous year. The Government contributed Rs. 6·08 lakhs. The Government also contributed largely towards the extension of three non-Government intermediate colleges.

The number of English High and Middle Schools slightly increased. The number of institutions rose to 225 and of scholars to 58,174. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 37·08 lakhs, of which Rs. 19·54 lakhs came from provincial revenues. Of the teachers in English schools, 36 per cent. are trained, 70 per cent. in Government and 22 per cent. in non-Government schools. Service in non-Government institutions is still unattractive, chiefly because of the insecurity of tenure. The inducements offered by Government to the managers of aided institutions (as embodied in the grant-in-aid rules) to improve the quality of their staff have not always proved effective. To improve the situation, the department has drawn up a form of agreement to be entered into by teachers of aided schools, and it is hoped that this will establish a greater degree of confidence between the managers and their teachers.

There is a gradual improvement in the quality of teaching. Science, commercial subjects, nature study and geography are becoming more popular. Manual training is losing ground. Drawing is also weak; drawing masters themselves reach a very low standard of proficiency. Some improvement in the teaching of drawing is, however, expected if the proposal (now under consideration) for the training of drawing teachers at the School of Arts, Lucknow, is adopted. Music has been introduced into the Kanya Kubja College, Lucknow.

One thousand five hundred and forty-seven candidates or 53 per cent. were successful in the examination of the Intermediate standard, and 4,379 candidates or 61 per cent. were successful in High School examinations and other examinations of the University admission standard.

Discipline was good. The usual games are common, and tournaments have been organized at some centres. Scouting is becoming more popular, good work having been done by scouts at *melas* and during the disastrous floods of September, 1924. The course in First-aid, Hygiene and Sanitation is becoming remarkably popular, 1,209 scholars receiving the certificate of St. John Ambulance Association as against 392 of the previous year.

Large sums of money have been spent on buildings during the last two or three years. Even so, several institutions are badly housed. The D. A.-V. Intermediate College, Dehra Dun, received a grant of over half a lakh for class rooms and the High School, Anupshahr, was given Rs. 30,000 for a new hostel. A sum of about half a lakh was spent on the completion of the Radhaswami Institute, Agra. A Science block was added at the Intermediate College, Chandausi, and the new buildings of the Muslim High School, Moradabad, were completed. The main building of the Kanya Kubja Intermediate College, Lucknow, was completed and a Science block added to the Government school, Lakhimpur. A private benefactor enabled the Bisheshwar Nath School, Akbarpur (Fyzabad), to complete its building programme.

The number of Vernacular Middle Schools rose from 555 to 573 and the enrolment increased from 47,102 to 49,334, the increase being fairly generally distributed over the districts. Expenditure rose from Rs. 12.71 to Rs. 12.96 lakhs. There is insufficient accommodation in Vernacular Middle Schools, but building is impeded by want of funds. To meet the growing demand for English classes, it has been decided to open an English class in at least one Middle Vernacular School in each district.

**Primary
education.**

269. The number of schools rose from 16,507 to 17,345, enrolment from 885,807 to 921,494 and expenditure from Rs. 68.48 to Rs. 71.33 lakhs. There was an increase in the number of aided schools from 2,830 with 94,095 boys to 3,299 with 107,101 boys. These schools are decidedly inferior in quality to those of the district boards. There was a rise in the number of both trained and untrained teachers—by 1,387 to 22,430 and by 287 to 9,997 respectively. The

percentage of trained teachers has steadily advanced from 54·6 in 1921-22 to 69·2 in the year under report.

The state of buildings varies considerably over the province. District boards have made little or no progress in the construction of new buildings. The boards received grants from the Government for the expansion of primary education under the three years' contract system described in the last year's report. The year under report was the first year of the new system, and it is too early yet to say how it has worked.

Village school libraries are not popular with the school-boy. The lantern lecture committee is a useful organization for advancing popular education. But for lack of enthusiasm or want of funds or both, the number of district boards participating in the scheme dropped from 14 to 8. The primary school in Moradabad district where the experiment was started of combining agricultural training with education is flourishing. The agricultural methods taught in the school are adopted by cultivators in the neighbourhood.

Six municipalities introduced compulsory primary education for boys, bringing the total to 18. So far the experiment has proved successful wherever it has been introduced.

270. The Government Training Colleges at Allahabad, Lucknow and Agra had 66, 54 and 53 students respectively under training. Owing to improved prospects in the profession, the Allahabad Training College attracted a better class of graduate—nine had Master's degrees and of the B.A.'s. a good proportion had first or second class degrees. The Training College of the Benares Hindu University had 36 students, and that of the Muslim University, Aligarh, had 26 students for the B.T. degree and 16 for the undergraduate's course.

The number of normal schools remained at eight. This number is insufficient, and it is now proposed to add two more. The number of training classes fell from 180 to 128. The question of training teachers for vernacular schools was examined by the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, who was placed on special duty to suggest measures for the improvement of primary education. His proposals are under consideration.

In view of repeated complaints about the paucity of qualified women teachers, the decided increase in the number of

applicants for admission to women's training classes is satisfactory. The number of women teachers under training, the majority of whom were members of the Vernacular Teacher's Certificate class, rose from 211 to 236. Classes for the Women's Vernacular Teacher's Certificate in the normal schools at Lucknow, Bareilly and Allahabad had 57 students. Admission was refused to several applicants for want of room. Another normal school is badly needed and the department is considering the question of opening one. There were thirteen primary training classes for women in model schools and four classes were attached to other schools. A new advanced three years' course for the Women Teacher's Certificate examination was inaugurated and should produce a better class of teacher.

**Institutions
for female
education.**

271. The number rose by 98 to 1,809 and enrolment by 2,187 to 68,823. The number of scholars increased in the Vernacular Middle Schools, but declined in the primary schools. Expenditure, which exceeded that of the previous year by almost half a lakh, amounted to Rs. 12·88 lakhs. There was, however, a further fall in expenditure by district boards.

The two women's colleges, the Crosthwaite College, Allahabad, and the Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, had a successful year, the former having twelve and the latter eight students in degree classes. B.Sc classes were opened at the Isabella Thoburn College.

As in the previous year Intermediate classes were attached to colleges at Lucknow, Allahabad and Benares. The total enrolment in these classes was 58.

The English High Schools did well and the upper middle and high sections are well established. Enrolment, however, is not yet large. The Government grant of Rs. 24,401 relieved the Mahadevi Kanya Pathshala, Dehra Dun (recently recognized as a High School), of a heavy burden of debt. One hundred and twenty-three girls were enrolled in the high section.

The majority of the English Middle Schools have no higher sections, and students who wish to study further are sent on to one of the High Schools. One hundred and forty four girls were successful in the English Middle examination.

The number and enrolment of Vernacular Middle Schools increased by 15 and 2,028 to 112 and 12,432 respectively. Two hundred and five candidates passed the Vernacular Middle examination. The number and enrolment of Indian girls' primary schools rose slightly to 1,437 and 47,287 respectively. Complaint is general that the vernacular school buildings are unsatisfactory.

272. An account of the progress of agricultural, industrial and technical schools of various kinds has been given in describing agricultural and industrial development in Chapter IV. **Technical education.**

273. There was not much change in the number of institutions (55), and the total number of scholars (5,863). Expenditure rose by Rs. 1.60 lakhs to Rs. 15.40 lakhs, due chiefly to want of uniformity in the schools in classifying their expenditure. The proportion of this expenditure paid from provincial funds fell from 42 to 38.64 per cent. There are two training classes for women teachers. **Special schools for Europeans.**

274. The number of institutions rose by 87 to 1,861. Enrolment in Islamia Schools and in Maktabas rose by 111 and 5,066 to 25,394 and 37,846 respectively. The scheme of employing supervisors of Maktabas (for which grants have been given to district boards of Bareilly, Basti and Hardoi) is a new one and it cannot yet be said how far it has succeeded. **Muham-
madan
schools.**

275. Government spent about Rs. 1.25 lakhs on the education of depressed classes. The district boards maintained 777 schools for them with an enrolment of 23,030 as against 687 with an enrolment of 22,943 in the previous year. The prejudice of higher castes against the admission in schools of boys of the depressed classes is gradually weakening. **Depressed classes.**

276. The Board completed its first term of three years and was dissolved; the newly constituted Board met in November, 1925. **Board of
High School
and
Intermediate
education.**

During the year under report a new examination, called the Agricultural Diploma examination, was instituted. Several new optional subjects were recognized for the High School and Intermediate examinations, including Indian Music, a non-examination subject at the High School stage. Students who pass a public examination in an oriental language are now allowed to take the High School or the Intermediate examination in the subject of English only under certain conditions. The number of candidates registered for the Board's

examinations (the Intermediate examination, the Commercial Diploma examination and High School examination) was 8,706 as against 8,805 in the previous year. Permanent recognition was granted by the Board to four institutions—to three for the High School examination and to one for the Intermediate examination.

40.- Literature and the Press.

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS.

- Number.** 277. The number of works published and registered under the Copyright Act in these provinces during 1924 was 2,727.
- Publishing centres.** 278. The more important publishing centres during the year were Benares, Allahabad, Lucknow, Aligarh, Hathras, Cawnpore, Agra, Budaun and Meerut.
- Language.** 279. Hindi publications accounted for 55 per cent. of the total number. Next came Urdu publications with 15 per cent. Two hundred and nineteen books were published in English, 103 in Sanskrit, 40 in Nepali, 13 each in Persian and Bengali, 6 in Burmese, 5 in Arabic, 3 in Marathi, 2 in Gujarati and one each in Garhwali and Maithli. The number of polyglot books—mostly of an educational nature—continued to rise and reached 372.
- Form of expression.** 280. Verse as usual was a favourite medium of expression and was employed in about one-third of the total output. Most of the poems were inspired by propagandist zeal, but did not rise much above the level of mere versification. A higher level of poetry—in the work of Sir Muhammad Iqbal, for instance—occasionally appeared. Works of fiction numbered 243. These include translations of European and other foreign novels as well as original tales of love and chivalry derived from mediæval India. Stories of contemporary life purported to expose the seamy side of life in high places or were concerned with the glorification of the Turks in the Great War or with the murder of the Czar and the miseries of the Soviet régime.
- Subject matter: Religion.** 281. Religious works were numerous. Some were merely expository. But as communal tension increased, religious tracts tended to degenerate into acrimonious controversy. The

mutual recriminations of Muslims and Arya Samajists especially were inclined on occasions to offend against the canons of good taste. Mr. Gandhi's reflections on the Arya Samaj were not accepted without protest by that community. Other sections of Hinduism were also engaged in mutual controversy, and their example has been followed by Muslims, among whom Shias and Sunnis unite to attack Wahabis only when not involved in controversies of their own.

But the main line of cleavage as might be expected is between Hindus and Muslims. This was responsible for a large crop of acrimonious *quasi-religious* pamphlets. Muslims took alarm at the "Shudhi" and "Sangathan" movements and were particularly disturbed by the reclamation of the Malkhanas and the tone of some of the anti-Muslim tracts emanating from the Arya Samaj. On the other hand, Hindu apprehensions were roused by rumours about a book entitled "Daiya Islam", attributed to a certain Delhi author and said to have been privately circulated among Muslims. The book was alleged to advocate a campaign of proselytization by all classes of Muslims. Government servants, domestic servants and even itinerant pedlars were all to play their part and supply a central intelligence bureau with confidential information which could in some way be used to discredit other religions and pave the way for a general acceptance of Islam. Hindu pamphleteers were not slow to seize the opportunity, and the result was a series of excited anti-Muslim tracts. The pamphlets on both sides were mainly remarkable for the violence of their sentiments, literary merit being conspicuously absent.

282. The removal of social evils continued to be a favourite subject for tracts. Widow remarriage, the purification of the priestly class at pilgrim centres, the promotion of temperance the removal of untouchability and the elevation of depressed classes all found their advocates. Many authors found broad comedy and farce a useful vehicle for their sermons. In many cases, however, the temptation to fly off at a tangent was too strong to be resisted, and the mere mention of the *charkha* or untouchability caused the author to forget social reform and to plunge headlong into national or communal politics.

Social
ethics.

Intemperate writing on subjects popular with extremist politicians was in evidence in the early part of the year. As

the year advanced, however, extremist literature became less popular and was ousted by communal pamphlets reflecting the growing tension between the Hindus and Muslims. Serious contributions to political science were few. In this class, however, were books dealing with the theory of representative Government, the place of Indian States in the scheme of political progress in India, the policy and programme of the Liberal party, and even a few on the blessings of the British connexion. Books by the French savant M. Paul Richards dealing with the political awakening in the East were translated into Hindi. A few tracts were devoted to municipal politics and some suggested that the electors should subordinate party considerations to the public good. The Congress Committee and the Khilafat Committee published a few books outlining their schemes for national education in their own institutions, and also some text-books for use in their schools. Pamphlets ostensibly devoted to agricultural economics were sometimes diverted to baser uses and used as vehicles of attack on zamindars for their alleged oppression of tenants or their unholy alliance with the Government. Similarly tracts on the protection of cattle degenerated into communal discussions on cow killing.

Miscellaneous.

283 A valuable book on the ancient history of Islam was published under the auspices of the Aligarh Muslim University. A new edition was brought out of a work on Unani medicine written about 198 A.H. Other miscellaneous subjects treated were the co-operative movement, the floods, and a history of village communities and panchayats. A monthly ladies' magazine was started. A large number of books appeared on so-called sexual science. These were mostly pornographic in character and were in some cases chiefly intended to advertise the author's nostrums.

THE PRESS

Number of news papers.

284 The total number of newspapers and periodicals in 1924 rose from 452 to 513. Monthly journals (225) preponderated, followed at a distance by weeklies (139), dailies (18) and bi-weeklies (13). The popularity of monthly and weekly journals contrasts curiously with the conditions in western countries. Apparently the average reader in India is comparatively little interested in news, although the practice of publishing press telegrams of general and local interest is on

the increase What he really looks for is an editorial pronouncement on questions of public interest: he likes his own opinions to be ready made for him. Art and letters, sport, industry, travel and science make little appeal to him, though a few industrial and literary journals maintain a somewhat precarious existence.

285 Lucknow headed the list with 72 papers, thus dis-
Publish
ing centres.
placing Allahabad which, with 67 papers, occupied the second place Then came Cawnpore and Benares (40 each), Agra (37), Meerut (29), Aligarh (22), Moradabad (12) and Bijnor (11)

286. Hindi accounted for the highest number of publi-
Language.
cations (218). Next came Urdu (183), English (103), Bengali and Sanskrit (4 each) and Gujarati (1)

287. The number of daily papers with a circulation of
Circulation.
2,000 and over fell from eight to six, of which three were English, two Hindi and one Urdu In the previous year a Hindi weekly enjoyed the largest circulation (14,000), but in 1924 it had fallen to 6,500, and the first place was taken by an English daily paper with a circulation of 7,000 A Hindi monthly paper came third with 6,000 Among Urdu papers a daily paper was the most successful, having a circulation of 3,000.

Several new papers appeared in the year One of them was chiefly concerned with the affairs of Indian States Two Cawnpore papers displayed communist leanings A number of publications ceased to appear, including several of extreme political views

288. Reckless attacks on the Government were less fre-
Subject
matter:
General.
quent, and a good deal of the abuse in extremist journals was written merely for effect and bore no obvious trace of sincerity The editors of four papers were prosecuted for the publication of inflammatory or seditious articles Two of them apologized and the cases against them were withdrawn. The other two were convicted.

The *Leader* maintains its reputation as the leading Liberal paper As before, it is as unsparing in its criticism of Government as of extreme political views. The Hindi papers with the largest circulations are the least detached in their political comments. Amongst Urdu papers the *Hamdam*, the *Oudh Akhbar*, the *Azad* and *Albashir* may be

said to have shown an intelligent appreciation of current political questions.

But while criticism of the Government decreased both in volume and intensity, the expression of communal bias increased very considerably. At first the more extreme nationalistic papers set themselves to resist the rising tide by urging that the Government was at the bottom of all communal dissensions. This transparently misleading argument was soon abandoned, and now most papers show an increasing tendency to judge questions of public moment from the purely communal point of view. Hindu and Muslim differences of normal times received special prominence. In addition the Muslim papers were especially bitter against *Shuddhi*, *Sangathan* and the Hindu Maha Sabha, while the Hindu papers criticized the extra-territorial patriotism of Muslims and attacked the *Tablig* and *Tanzeem* movements. It was firmly believed, or at any rate alleged, that the Muslims habitually kidnapped Hindu women and boys with a view to their forcible conversion, and other questionable methods of proselytism were ascribed to them. Music in front of mosques provided a constant source of friction, and the *arti-nimaz* controversy at Lucknow was the subject of much heated comment. The Government did not always escape blame in its efforts to maintain peace and order in times of sectarian excitement. The Unity Conference of Delhi which met towards the close of 1924 received general support from the Press, which, however, did less than it might have done to further its objects.

Foreign
affairs.
(a) Muslim
countries.

289. Muslims found much to interest them in events of the near and middle East. The conclusion of peace with Turkey, the abolition of the Caliphate and the prospect of friction with Afghanistan in connexion with the Kohat murders all occupied the front of the stage in their time, and in turn receded into the background before newer interests. There was much dissatisfaction with the indemnity demanded from Egypt after the murder of Sir Lee Stack. The shifting fortunes in the Hedjaz provided much material for argument, and opinion was sharply divided as to which of the contending parties was entitled to Muslim sympathy. The League of Nations was characterized as the instrument of powerful European nations for furthering their imperialist designs on the East and was the target for much uninformed criticism.

290. The position of Indians overseas received constant attention. The disabilities under which Indians labour in South Africa, Kenya and the Colonies were strongly resented. The Government of India was blamed for not supporting the Indian cause in South Africa as strongly as the exigencies of the case required. (b) Indians abroad.

291. The ranks of the orthodox non-co-operating papers continued to dwindle as the futility of their programme became more and more obvious. The debates in the Legislative Assembly were closely followed, especially those on questions connected with the reforms. It was generally held that the Government's attitude on this subject was reactionary or unprogressive. Many papers pressed for the early appointment of a Royal Commission to examine the possibility of a further and immediate constitutional advance. The limited inquiry undertaken by the Government of India was regarded as inadequate. The reforms.

292. The Indian Press almost unanimously condemned the Lee Commission Report. There were insistent demands that British recruitment should cease. Indianization of services.

41. Arts and Sciences.

(See reports on the Provincial Museum, Lucknow, the Archaeological Museum, Muttra, and the Public Library, Allahabad, for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

293. The Provincial Museum at Lucknow was open to the public throughout the year, visitors, including *pardanashin* ladies, numbering 107,873. Among other distinguished visitors was Dr. A. K. Coomarswami of the Boston Museum, U.S.A. Museums.

The Museum's new acquisitions numbered 499, comprising eight specimens under archaeology, 240 under coins and medals, 55 under natural history, 16 under ethnography and 180 additions to the library, the acquisitions being specially important in the departments of numismatics and natural history.

Among additions to the archaeology section, special mention should be made of a fine plaster cast of an outer rail coping stone (7' 4" x 2' 11") from the Buddhist stupa of Amravati in the Kistna district of the Madras Presidency. The original is in the Indian Museum, Calcutta. It consists of three panels which, besides presenting a vivid picture of

the religion, life and customs of the people of Southern India about the first century A.D., also depicts important scenes connected with the life of Lord Buddha. Mention may also be made of a mediæval red sandstone image (3' 6" x 2') discovered at Sirhapur (Etah district) representing a heroic achievement of the goddess Durga in destroying a demon.

The numismatics section was enriched by some valuable additions. The *muahars* acquired include rare issues of Humayun, Aurangzeb (mint Narnol), Kam Bakhsh (mint Bijapur), Ibrahim Shah (mint Shahjahanabad), and Jalal-ud-din Fateh Khan of Bengal, a variant from those in the collection of the Indian Museum, Calcutta. The silver coins include issues of Krishna Raja Rashtrakuta, dated 375—400 A.D., Shah Alam Bahadur (mint Akarwan), Farrukhsiar (mint Bijapur), Muhammed Shah (mint Muazzamabad), and a quarter rupee of Akbar (mint Tatta). Two silver coins of Hoseyn Baikara, a descendant of Timur, of mints Herat and Astarabad, discovered in the Sitapur district claim special mention, as this is the first time that such coins have come to light in these provinces.

The department of natural history owes much to Mr. W. B. Cotton, I.C.S., who has presented his fine collection of trophies from the Eastern Sudan to the Museum.

Sixteen objects of varied interest and importance were collected for the ethnographical section, e.g., a brass nut-cracker, profusely adorned with human figures and three silver amulets incised with figures and texts and worn as phylacteries. Additions to the library include a catalogue of the photographic negatives in the office of the Director-General of Archaeology in India, 1921, a book on Indian iconography, general views and special points of interest of the city of Lucknow from drawings made about 1860, books of old travellers in India and the East, on the jungle life of India and on the third triennial report on Hindi manuscripts for 1912—1914.

The net cost to Government of maintaining the Lucknow Museum was Rs. 16 lakh.

The Muttra Museum was stagnant. No meeting of the managing committee was held during the year, and there were no fresh acquisitions for want of funds.

Libraries.

294. Of the public libraries in the province, the most important is at Allahabad. The total number of books rose

by 864 to 33,985 which comprised 23,020 books in the general section, 3,657 in the oriental section and 7,308 Government publications. The number of visitors increased from 7,761 in 1922-23 to 13,201 in 1923-24 and 18,750 in the year under report. Depositors numbered 920 as against 886 in the previous year. Of the 9,534 books issued, 350 were issued to depositors residing out of Allahabad. There was a rise in issues of books on sociology. General literature, history and fiction were popular. The Government grant to the library amounted to Rs. 8,100. There are large and growing libraries in the Universities of Allahabad and Benares, and a useful public Library at Lucknow.

295. The All-India Music Conference and the All-India Fine Arts Exhibition have been held for two successive years (1925 and 1926) in Lucknow. The two sessions of the Music Conference brought together many distinguished musicians most of whom at present are professionals and also experts like Professor Bhatkhande. The fine arts.

These conferences have undoubtedly awakened a genuine interest in the classical music of India and have advanced appreciably the prospect of opening a college of music under whose guidance Indian music will be systematised and developed along modern lines. The All-India Fine Arts Exhibitions served a somewhat similar purpose for Indian painting and His Excellency the Governor in opening the 1926 Exhibition made an appeal not only for a college of music but also for a permanent Arts Gallery. The Exhibitions have been representative of all schools and periods of Indian painting and have demonstrated what wealth in this respect the country still possesses. Among the visitors were Dis. Rabendranath Tagore and Abenendranath Tagore.

It is permissible to hope that the seeds of a real revival in music and art have been sown in these conferences. Art is not merely a luxury—it has its utilitarian side, and this was emphasised by the Hon'ble Rai Rajeshwar Bali, Minister for Education, in his address at the 1926 Exhibition. As he said, India has need of art to help her to compose her differences of race and creed, to inspire selfless patriotism, and to build up the national character—functions which art has performed in all ages and still can perform. "Where the politician has failed, art will succeed."

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

42.—Archæology.

(See extracts relating to the United Provinces from the reports of the Superintendent, Hindu and Buddhist Monuments, Northern Circle, and of the Superintendent, Muhammadan and British Monuments, Northern Circle, for the year ending March 31, 1925.)

The following is an account of the monuments in charge of the Central Government. The monuments in charge of the Provincial Government are of minor importance

HINDU AND BUDDHIST MONUMENTS.

296 At Sarnath the remainder of the brick diamb attached to the main shrine and fore court, of which 40 feet was repaired in the previous year, was cleaned and conserved. It was also further deepened. It appears that the drain was obstructed by the construction of a temple by Queen Kumara-devi and the rain-water has consequently soaked into the monuments for centuries. The work so far done has, however, been found inadequate during the rains and it may be necessary to dig a tank at the lower extremity of the channel to collect the water.

Work continued on the Dharmchakrajinvihara. In the course of levelling an unexcavated mound, some interesting copper antiquities were discovered, including bangles, a tiny tray (possibly for sandal paste), a broken jug and a beautiful casket decorated with concentric ribs. Several stupas and shrines in the fore court of the main shrine were also conserved and a number of minor repairs carried out.

Conservation measures in regard to the Buddhist* monuments at Kasia were started. Attention was confined during the year to one only of the convents (Monastery D), which is strikingly large and solid. It measures 150' x 148' on the outside and has a large central courtyard about 74 feet square. On each side there is a row of cells for monks

opening out into corridors 9 to 10 feet wide. The courtyard has two wells, one being very imposing.

The groups of monuments in the Almora district at Dwarahat continued to receive attention. The work begun in the year 1922 was completed. Six groups of temples were turfed and hedged in to protect them from cattle. Structural repairs were carried out in the Maniyan and the Mrityunjaya groups, the Ratan Deo shrines, the Ban Deo temple and the Thalkuraka *Naula*

Special repairs to the fort at Garhua were completed.

Rupees 25 lakh were spent on conservation as against Rs. 22 lakh in the previous year. The conservation of the Hindu and Buddhist monuments was transferred to the charge of the Superintendent, Muhammadan and Buddhist Monuments, Northern Circle, Agra.

MUHAMMADAN AND BRITISH MONUMENTS.

297. Under this head the total cost of conservation was Rs. 1.32 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1.57 lakhs in the previous year.

The most important buildings are situated in the Agra district where nine projects involving special repairs were carried out in addition to the annual repairs. At the Taj Mahal the chief work executed was the dismantling and reconstruction of the dome surmounting the north-west "minar." New underground cables for lighting the grounds of the Taj were laid. The principal work undertaken in the Agra Fort was on the pavement of the courtyard to the north of Jahangiri Mahal. At the Ram Bagh (which is one of the oldest Moghal gardens in India), certain modern additions which had been made to adapt the "baradaris" as a rest-house were removed, as they were little used. Some necessary additions and repairs were made to the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Agra. At Sikandra the west end of the western causeway was restored. Operations were also started on the Mosaic work at the tomb of Akbar, the restoration of which is an important work involving considerable expenditure. The work on the paved pathway to the Rang Mahal (said to be the first palace built by Akbar at Fatehpur-Sikri) was completed. Initial measures of conservation were taken in regard to the Jagner fort.

Measures of conservation work were also carried out in Lucknow, Jaunpur, Benares, Etawah and Meerut districts. Repairs to the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Sardhana (Meerut district), mentioned in the last year's report, were continued.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

43. Ecclesiastical.

298. The year was uneventful.

44. Emigration and Immigration.

(See reports on the working of the Indian Emigration Act for 1924, issued by the Director of Emigrants, Calcutta, and on the working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in the United Provinces for the year ending June 30, 1925.)

299. There was no emigration of unskilled labour to countries overseas except to Mauritius which was allowed for one year with effect from May 31, 1923, under terms and conditions approved by the Government of India. The total number of emigrants from these provinces to Mauritius for the year was 99. The emigrants, who were mostly agriculturists, came from Gonda (32), Basti (26), Fyzabad (19), Bahraich (15) and Benares (7). The Emigration Commissioner for Mauritius had his headquarters at Benares. **Foreign emigration.**

The bulk of the recruits were emigrants who had returned from different colonies. The re-emigration of returned emigrants has been ascribed to a number of causes, such as want of suitable employment in India, climatic conditions, insufficient wages, return to a style of living to which they were not accustomed, changed social conditions and expulsion from the society of relatives and friends.

No record is kept of the destinations to which returned emigrants landing at Calcutta proceed, but it is believed that since most of the emigrants to the colonies in the past have been residents of this province, the majority of them come back to the United Provinces. Hence the figures of emigrants returning to Calcutta are interesting. The total number embarking from the several colonies for return to India during the year was 2,010, as against 4,287 in the previous year. Out

of 2,010 emigrants, 811 or 40·54 per cent. brought savings ranging from one rupee upwards. Of the remaining 1,199 or 59·65 per cent. who are shown as having brought no savings, 802 only, were actual paupers and the rest were the wives and children of those who brought savings. The total value of their savings aggregated Rs. 5·48 lakhs, giving an average of Rs. 273 each as compared with Rs. 272 of the previous year.

**Inland
emigration.**

300. The total number of coolies recruited for Assam fell from 5,639 to 3,510. The decrease which was especially noticeable in the Cawnpore district was probably due to a variety of reasons. The demand for labour following on a good monsoon and the higher rate of wages obtainable locally lessened the temptation to emigrate. Fewer sirdars also were sent from the Assam tea gardens to recruit, partly because of the opening of four new agencies elsewhere and partly because the Tea Districts Labour Association is making an effort to weed out undesirables among the sirdars. The districts which supplied the greatest number of recruits were as usual Cawnpore, Basti and Gorakhpur. A case of illegal recruitment came to light in Gorakhpur and ended in conviction.

No statistics are kept for emigration to places other than Assam. But a large number of individuals finds employment in Calcutta and Bombay. It is also believed that Delhi is attracting many.

Immigration.

301. No record is kept of immigrants into these provinces from other parts of India. It is probable, however, that a series of good monsoons is bringing back to agricultural work many who had previously left the province.

45. Government printing and stationery.

(See annual reports on the working of the Government Presses in the United Provinces and on the consumption of stationery, etc., by officers of the Government of the United Provinces issued by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, India, for 1924-25.)

**Government
Press.**

302. The work of the Press during the year did not present any feature worthy of special mention. The main press at Allahabad and the branch presses at Naini (Jail branch), Naini Tai and Lucknow were fully occupied. The

latter had, as usual, to cope with the very heavy work of the Legislative Council.

The quantity of paper used was 502 tons as against 434 tons in the previous year, and 612 in the year before. The value of printing done by the Press fell from Rs. 9.11 lakhs to Rs. 8.81 lakhs.

Receipts were in excess of the figures of the previous year by Rs. 1.19 lakh—chiefly under the head “Miscellaneous”—and amounted to 3.62 lakhs. No election work was done during the year and expenditure consequently declined by Rs. 1.16 lakhs to Rs. 5.23 lakhs.

303. The total value of the stationery issued to the prov- Stationery.
inces dropped from Rs. 4.90 lakhs to Rs. 4.46 lakhs. The cost of stationery supplied to the Government Press was nearly the same as in the previous year and amounted to Rs. 2.74 lakhs. The average cost of supply for the whole province *per capita* was Rs. 14.